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Harry Squire, 1868.

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A Portrait from Life in the Collection of the Author.

DEDICATED TO THE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED FANCIER
OF TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS.

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A
TREATISE
ON THE ART OF
BREEDING AND MANAGING
TAME, DOMESTICATED,
AND
FANCY PIGEONS,

CAREFULLY COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORS, WITH OBSERVATIONS, CONTAINING
ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO BE KNOWN OF TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND
FANCY PIGEONS.

BY
JOHN MATTHEWS EATON,
AUTHOR OF THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

"All that a Man knows, or ever will know,
is by Observation or Reflection."
LOCKE.

PUBLISHED FOR, AND TO BE OBTAINED OF, THE AUTHOR,
7, ISLINGTON GREEN, LONDON.

—
1852.

Cambridge University Library,
On permanent deposit from
the Bodleian

TO MY
YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED BROTHERS
IN
THE FANCY.

When I had concluded my Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, and about to bid you farewell after having given you all my observations and reflections on the subject, I called your attention to the "Wise Man's Saying," p. 49, "There is a time for all things, and the time had arrived for us to part." Judge of my surprise, with my pen in hand, endeavouring to compile a Work on Tame, Domestic, and Fancy Pigeons in general, as encouraged by the acknowledged best Fanciers that ever lived, and, in page 5, informed you that I considered there was nothing so base as ingratitude, and I cannot bring my mind to bear otherwise, and brand myself with ingratitude, if I did not attempt to compile a Work worthy of your acceptance, after the highly complimentary Testimonials of the Press, besides many letters from all parts of the country to the same effect, and at the same time pressing me to write a Work on Fancy Pigeons in general; I repeat, judge of my surprise, appearing before you again in so short a time; it was the last of my thoughts after having completed my Almond Tumbler, for on that, I can assure you, I caught a Tartar.

Should the Work, or compilation, which it is my intention to lay before you, not please you, after reading it over, blame yourselves and not me, for endeavouring to carry out your earnest entreaties; for I can assure you it is no joke to bring out a Work on the subject, for it will make enemies of a few waspish, crabby, old Fanciers, (who sit behind their half-and-half and blow their baccy, whose names are not known in the Fancy out of the holes and corners they sit in, "but they are not all the Fanciers in the World!") who do not wish the young Fancier to know more than answers their purpose. The first time the idea struck me of writing the Almond Tumbler, I mentioned my intention, which caused some to laugh: when silence was restored, a gentleman remarked that if I wrote one he would answer it; it may be this put a damper upon me and my work at the time, and I abandoned it: time rolled on—I gained more experience—all the world in a fever about the forthcoming Exhibition, I was desirous of bringing out something; after racking my brains (which I think, generally, is about as clear as mud in a wine glass) the idea of the Almond Tumbler struck me, and which I brought out. Mark the remarks that was made upon it by men who did know better, that they "did not believe I had the ability to produce such a work." I believe, two or three informed me, that the portrait of the Almond Tumbler as frontispiece, was excellent, for which I went to considerable expence, being determined to give the Young Fancier a high standard to breed up to; they had cut the portrait out, went to considerable expense for frame, but burnt the book, (very pleasant to hear!) Others went so far as to give the credit to my much respected and esteemed Brother Fancier, Mr. DEAN WOLSTENHOLME, as the Author; but who was the engraver of the Portrait of the Almond Tumbler.

I cannot help thinking but that I am justified in stating the facts of the case before my Brother Fanciers,—after having written my work, and prior to consigning it to the Press, I thought it "nothing but right" to read it over to some friend or friends. I prevailed upon Mr. WOLSTENHOLME, whose judgment upon Pigeons in general is second to no man, and whose honesty in these matters qualifies him for an impartial umpire upon any occasion; and also upon my much esteemed respected old school-fellow, a young and inexperienced Fancier,

who had not much time, and less money to lay out in the Fancy, and was a common-sense man; before these two friends of mine I read over the manuscript; Mr. WOLSTENHOLME gave me two ideas and no more, which I will give you. p. 9.

First.—Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT said, he would produce any given feather in three years; but it would take him six years to obtain head and beak.

Second.—(p. 32, on my writing of Beak.) “By breaking the upper mandible when the bird is a few days old; but it may be detected, from the injury it has received, similar to our own flesh when we have received a severe pinch; it may also be detected in the bird when grown up, by the position of the beak, it has an unnatural appearance, the beak pointing upwards.” For these two ideas I feel grateful to my friend and brother Fancier—the Animal Artist. The case was very different with my much respected, esteemed, and old school-fellow, HENRY MAJOR, who would not tell a lie to oblige a friend, or hurt a foe. He was not an experienced Fancier, not having been long enough in the Fancy. He stated most positively to me, that he could not give a single idea. But he thought, without altering the idea, by transposing some of the sentences, would read better. He did so; we read them over, and greatly approved of the transposition, for which I feel grateful. I am aware there are a few Fanciers who would have given the credit (provided there was any due) to Mr. H. MAJOR, it would not do, simply because he was not a sufficient Fancier.* It appears to me some few of the hole-and-corner Fanciers was quite willing to give the credit, as I said before, provided there was any due to any one save me, the Author.

* Allow me in this part to give you a portion of a Letter I received from my much respected old school-fellow, HENRY MAJOR, on board the “Peru,” lying wait to sail for Geelong, Port Phillip, Australia :—

“ 2nd Sept. 1852.

“ DEAR EATON,

“ In case you were not able to come down here to see us once more, I thought I would drop you a line to say, We are well, and going on as well or better than we could expect, &c. &c. I trust that every incident that may happen may serve to reconcile us to a voyage, and to life on the other side of the Globe, &c. &c. Remember me to DEAN WOLSTENHOLME, and every Brother Fancier (if I may have the vanity to call myself one), convey my best wishes and tell them, when I am far away I shall still bear them in remembrance.

“ Farewell, and believe me to remain,

“ Yours most sincerely,

“ HENRY MAJOR.”

Why was I so great an admirer of MAJOR, he was a man of integrity and a lover of truth, and would yield to no man if he thought he was right; in argument, on different topics, at times, we were mountains high, (but we agreed to differ, believing each other sincere,) and to use an expression of his elder brother, MR. GEORGE MAJOR, that he carried about him so large a quantity of Carbonic Gas, he was afraid to come near him for fear of being “Blown Up,”

But for the unkindness I had received from some few, prior to my writing the Almond Tumbler, I promised them I would be a thorn in their side before I had done with them, and that was the thorn, that not only stuck in their side, but their throat also; at the same time, should I bring out the work I am attempting at, I expect it will stick in their gizzard; for endeavouring to open the eyes of the young and inexperienced, by instructing him to read, mark, learn, and inwardly to digest, to open his eyes and look out of the windows of his understanding, to think for himself, and not to take all for granted what he hears at a Pigeon Show for Gospel. Although my Almond Tumbler has now been published eighteen months, the gentleman who promised to answer it has not at present, and I sincerely hope your head and mine will not ache until he does.

I cannot find language to express my gratitude to the Gentlemen of the Press, for the very high testimonials they have thought fit to give upon my Work—the Almond Tumbler; with these flattering testimonials, combined with many entreaties from Fanciers of all parts of the country, urging me to bring out a work on Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons:—Do you think I am to be cowed by unkindness? If you do, you do not know what the little Bit of Stuff that is writing is composed of. It is true, I am too short for a Militia Man, but I know that I am tall enough for a superior Officer; and I believe many a brave soldier has lost his life in a field of battle, simply because he was not as short as I am. I asked, Did you think I was to be cowed by unkindness? Certainly not; it will urge me on to endeavour to accomplish my undertaking, and as Mr. Moore beautifully observes in Paragraph 16, hoping it will have the desired effect of pushing on some abler pen, “I commit it to the candid censure of mankind.”

Taken from FRANKLIN'S WAY TO WEALTH, or POOR RICHARD IMPROVED:—“Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other,” as poor Richard says, and scarce in that; for it is true, “We may give advice, but we cannot give conduct.” However, remember this, “They that will not be counselled cannot be helped;” and further, that “If you will not hear reason, she will surely rap your knuckles,” as poor Richard says, and is beautifully observed, “I was conscious not a tenth part of the Wisdom was my own which he ascribed to me, but rather the gleanings that I had made of the sense of all ages and nations.”

Mr. Moore in his Work, Paragraph 5, says, “I have wisely learnt from it to seek a proper refuge against any ill-natured censures.” To this purpose I beg leave to prefix your name, SIR WILLIAM STAPLETON, Bart., to this Work, and to assure the World that you who have purchased Pigeons at very considerable prices do not think the subject below your regard.

But the question is, Where am I to fly to for refuge against any ill-natured feelings? I purpose screening myself simply under these words of Franklin, acknowledging that not a tenth part of the Wisdom upon Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons was my own, but rather the gleanings that I have made of the sense of the most experienced Fanciers that ever lived. I have endeavoured to glean and cater for you, my inexperienced brother in Fancy, and believe me, I am, as ever thine, to serve thee, a Brother Fancier, who has devoted time, care, and attention to the subject.

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

7, ISLINGTON GREEN,
LONDON.

7th Dec. 1852.

AN ADDRESS, &c.

Owing to the noise of the rattling of carriages of every description before daylight, and not being able to sleep for the noise, I got up and lighted my candle, made up my mind to endeavour this day to contribute more to the Work that I am engaged upon, than any other day I shall have it in hand. This day, Thursday, 18th of November, 1852, is appointed for the solemn funeral of the mortal remains of the immortal Wellington; such a sight will take place this day as never was witnessed before in England, and never will be witnessed again. He richly merited all that a grateful Nation lavished or bestowed upon him. Filling the office he did, he could not help the loss of life; but he treasured and husbanded the lives committed to his charge, and did not spill a single drop of blood more than could by any possibility be helped; taking into consideration what he had to accomplish, and it is a question whether any other man could be found that would have spilled so little; notwithstanding, he had some of the greatest and bravest officers that ever lived. I almost tremble when I contemplate upon the loss of life and accidents that may take place this day, owing to a grateful Nation paying their last debt of gratitude to the spiritless body (for the spirit had returned to God, who gave it) of the Great Iron Duke. Take him for all in all, I believe him to be the greatest man that has been born into the World, since Jesus Christ, in whom he trusted, and I believe the Nation believes that he could glory and exult with a confidential hope, whenever he uttered these words; for I know that my "Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and, though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me." Job, xix. chap., 25th, 26th, 27th verses. I may be a false prophet with regard to my apprehensions as touching the loss of lives or accidents, although every precaution has been taken that ingenuity could invent.

I cannot help thinking but barricades act the very reverse to what they are intended for—a stop, bar, obstruction—to stop up, choak, squeeze, and jam the masses of the people together against the barricades, where there is no flinching or giving way. These barricades are about breast high, and the pressure from without is so great, being jammed together against the barricades, that by some means or other, after desperate efforts, the people are enabled to stoop their heads and shoulders, to endeavour to get on the other side of the barrier; and in their attempt from one side of the barrier (experiencing the pressure) they are not enabled to raise their head and shoulders again, but are trampled to death. For argument sake admit that the parties within the barrier are screened from the pressure without. Answer me this question; What becomes of those without, and are pressed upon the barrier, where it is useless to attempt to flinch? for instance, take Chancery Lane, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, Farringdon Street, or the Old Bailey, and a hue and cry is raised that the funeral is coming; the rush is so tremendous, and the pressure so great from the top of Chancery Lane, in Holborn, to the bottom, close by Temple Bar; also at Bridge Street, from the people coming over Blackfriars Bridge and Farringdon Street; multitudes rushing down from Holborn, and also the Old Bailey, from the same cause. It is true there are barricades, but the simple question is, Whether there would not be fewer lives lost without them? people pressing one upon another, which is elastic and

gives way ; but it is a very different thing to be jammed against a barricade ; and it is the outer barricades where the multitudes are stopped that the squeezing and trampling to death takes place. I write from experience—I have had a few squeezes in my time, and the last I experienced, poor as I am, would have given one hundred pounds to have been out of the pressure, which I never expected to be alive, and having a strong recollection of the fact, and not any desire to have such another hug or embrace, I chose rather to stay at home and contemplate his great achievements, and endeavour to instruct you, my young Fancier. I said such a sight had never taken place in England, and never would again, as will this day. It is to be hoped that never such an opportunity will ever fall to the lot of an individual to gain so much glory (as it is called), but that the blessings of peace may attend us. The Nation, in its wisdom, found out the only appropriate resting place for all that remains of him, and that was by the side of the immortal Nelson.

This grave, which is incomplete, craving the ashes of that great and good Statesman, the late Right Honourable SIR ROBERT PEEL, Bart. the greatest and best Statesman this Country ever produced. He had the Poor at heart, and caused the Widow and the Orphan Childrens' heart to leap for joy. He was the cause of making provisions cheap for the Poor. It was a great loss to the Nation at the time, there not being a Public Funeral for so good a man. John Bull is a heavy, at the same time a deep thinking man. He is not altogether forgetful, and may reason, that the promise may be long delayed, but cannot come too late. This may be applicable to the raising of the monument to Nelson. Years may roll on before the Nation claims the ashes of the greatest and best-hearted statesman it ever produced, to perfect that grave that lays under the centre of the dome of Saint Paul's; then will the Nation have its Trinity in Unity (I do not mean the incomprehensible union of the three persons in the Godhead.) But having the greatest Sailor, the greatest Soldier, and the greatest and best Statesman this country ever produced, laying side by side and their dust mingling together with each other. I may not live to witness it, but believe it must take place to complete the grave. I rejoice to know that I was a False Prophet as regards the accidents I was fearful would take place on the solemn occasion, which was averted owing to the judicious arrangements of the Authorities.

Mr. MOORE, at the bottom of Paragraph 6, writes, give me leave to entertain you with the following story, &c. &c. I have only simply and plainly to inform you, that it is not my intention to apologise to you in stating facts.

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COLUMBARIUM:
OR,
THE PIGEON-HOUSE;
BEING AN
INTRODUCTION
TO A
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
TAME PIGEONS,
GIVING AN
ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL SPECIES KNOWN IN ENGLAND, WITH
THE METHOD OF BREEDING THEM, THEIR DISTEMPERS
AND CURES.

The two chief Advantages, which a real Acquaintance with Nature brings to our Minds, are first, by instructing our Understandings and gratifying our Curiosities; and next by exciting and cherishing our Devotion.

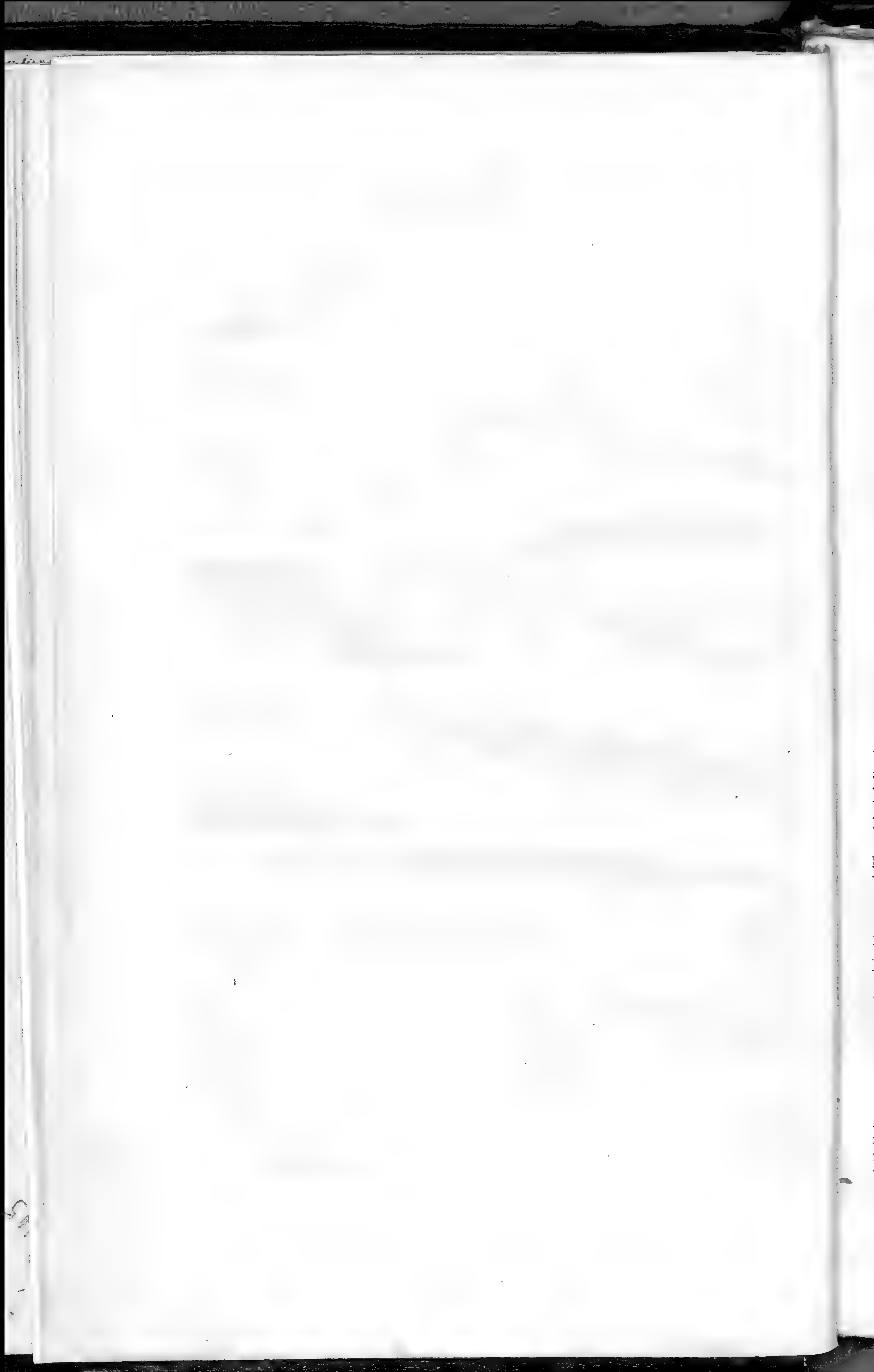
BOYLE'S EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY, p. 2.

BY JOHN MOORE.

LONDON :

Printed for J. WILFORD, behind the Chapter-House in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

1735.



DEDICATION.

TO
SIR WILLIAM STAPLETON, BARONET.

SIR,

1.—If either Philosophy or Novelty have any allurements, the following performance, I flatter myself, will afford you some entertainment.

2.—Many subjects the Naturalists seem to have exhausted. Horses and Dogs, and most of the animals that serve for the conveniences or amusements of life, have undergone the nicest enquiries; while the Pigeon, that contributes in some measure to both, a domestic as it were of ours, has been totally neglected.

3.—With a partiality usually shewn to the victor, the Hawk has engaged the pen of many a writer: but his prey, that seems to fly to us for protection, has scarce met with that, which even the wisdom of the Legislature has allowed it.

4.—I have endeavoured therefore in the following sheets to do some justice to this bird, and have prescribed the best methods, which long experience has furnished me with, for its propagation and preservation.

5.—I have wisely learnt from it to seek a proper refuge against any ill-natured censures. To this purpose I beg leave to prefix your name to this work, and to assure the World that you who have purchased Pigeons at very considerable prices, don't think the subject below your regard, and that the Author is,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

J. MOORE.

1.—To my young and inexperienced Fancier. I have thought fit to Number the Paragraphs of the late Mr. JOHN MOORE'S Work, although it is not so in the Original; conceiving it to be the easiest mode I could adopt, it being my intention briefly of calling your attention to some of the Paragraphs contained in his Work, and having carefully read over his work and entertaining so high an opinion of his work—COLUMBARIUM, or THE PIGEON HOUSE, I shall, as I observed before, be brief as possible, so as not to swell the book out beyond the reach of the more humble Fancier.

2 and 3.—Mr. MOORE appears deeply to regret the Pigeon should have been so long neglected by our Naturalists, while Horses, Dogs, and Hawks, have undergone the nicest enquiry.

4.—There is not any account upon record, that any Pigeon-Fancier (for no other could do it) ever contributed so much original matter to the Pigeon-Fanciers as did the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, which I will endeavour to prove to you, by and by, before I have gone through his Work; he was the Pre-eminent of Pigeon-Fanciers.

5.—It would appear there *were* illnatured Fanciers in the Fancy at the period Mr JOHN MOORE wrote his Book, 1735; being a good general, and anticipating some illnatured censures, he sought protection under a Fancier, SIR WILLIAM STAPLETON, Baronet, to whom he dedicated his Work. I think it will be right here to inform you, who and what Mr. MOORE was, and taking the most simple way the best: it not being my intention of publishing his account of some Medicines prepared by him, with a faithful narrative of some Cures effected by them; the account of the Medicines and Cures takes up one quarter of the Book, and has nothing relating or to do with Pigeons. Mr. M. describes himself thus:—Mr. JOHN MOORE, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar, in Lawrence Pountneys Lane, the first great gates on the left hand from Cannon Street, who formerly lived at the Pestle and Mortar, in Abchurch Lane, London.



P R E F A C E.

6.—Though the History of Birds in general has been given us by many hands, and in some parts in a very accurate manner, yet the study of this genus of birds seems in a great measure to be neglected by most of our naturalists, who have given us but very short cursory descriptions of some of the species, in which notwithstanding they have been guilty of many great mistakes, and entirely left out many others in their lists. It has amazed me to see so great an indolence on this particular branch spread itself in such an universal manner through all our Ornithologists, especially considering the vast opportunities they have had, or might have had, to have given their readers the utmost satisfaction by the most exact and ample descriptions. It is notorious to all mankind, what vast numbers of these birds in all the species have been and are still kept in this kingdom, not only by persons in a lower rank of life, but even by persons of the greatest distinction and the first degrees of quality, who have held these birds in so great esteem, that they have endeavoured to attain at least an experimental knowledge of them, purchasing, at a great expense, as many of the distinct sorts as they could hear of and cultivating them in their own houses; RICHARD ATHERTON, Esq. of Atherton Hall in Lancashire, who was a gentleman both of will and ability to prosecute his fancy in this branch of natural history, was building a stately house in Lancashire, on the top of which

6.—Entertaining so high an opinion of Mr. MOORE's Work, it is not my intention to quarrel with him, he appears to me to be somewhat hard to please, like many more in the World—in several parts of his Work he bitterly complains of the Naturalists and Ornithologists, of their indolence in not giving us an account of Fancy Pigeons, and those that did give us but very short cursory descriptions, and in this have been guilty of great mistakes. Mr MOORE might have saved himself a good deal of uneasiness if he had only have asked himself the question, How can a learned man write on a subject he did not understand? It must be the work of a Pigeon Fancier to write on Fancy Pigeons, considering the standards they are endeavoured to be brought up to; to sum it up those who did not write and those who did, did not please Mr. MOORE. I imagine for a moment, two of your most eminent wranglers, who had never kept a Pigeon in their lives, was set to wrangle on the five properties of a Fancy Pigeon, a subject they were totally unacquainted with, knowing no more of the five properties of the Pigeon than the Pigeon knew about them; it would therefore follow, as wise men, the less they said the better. I will now, my young Fancier, put it to you, will you remain quiet and not write, or write upon a subject that you do not sufficiently understand. Mr. MOORE, in continuation of the same paragraph, says: "especially considering the vast opportunities they have had, or might have had, "what opportunities they might have had," learned

he designed to have four turrets, in which his pigeons were to be disposed according to the nearness of relation between the different species, but death put an end to the undertaking in the year 1726, to the immense grief of all those gentlemen of the Fancy who had the honour of his acquaintance: he was a very compleat judge of a Pigeon and would spare neither cost nor trouble to procure the best; he had one pouting cock which he valued at five pound, and a very choice collection of

men could not be made Pigeon Fanciers in five minutes;" neither by placing Fancy Pigeons in a shew pen for them to make their observations upon, would have enabled them to have written upon the five properties; but they may have "exclaimed as many others at first sight—very pretty, very pretty indeed," which reminds me of a gentleman, a good Fancier, who retired into the country, taking with him his best birds, but what disheartened him when he bred a good bird he had no one about him to shew it to, who knew how to appreciate its properties, and others who saw it said it is very pretty: he would rather have heard a fault found with one of the five properties by a good Fancier, than that anything but sweet music by persons who do not understand them, by saying very pretty, very pretty indeed.

The loss of a spirited Fancier like RICHARD ATHERTON, Esq., of Atherton Hall, Lancashire, who, as Mr. MOORE observes, was a gentleman both of will and ability, besides being a very complete judge of a Pigeon, and would spare neither cost or trouble to procure the best, and had a very fine collection must have been severely felt by the Gentlemen of the Fancy of that day; and is equally as severely felt by the gentlemen of the Fancy of the present day, when they sustain the loss of a good Fancier. It is quite clear that in Mr. MOORE'S day, as now, that not only the lower rank of life, but even persons of the greatest distinction and the first degrees of quality kept Pigeons; I would here particularly guard you against having too great a variety of Pigeons, otherwise you will know a little of all the species, but nothing about one as it ought to be known. It is a grievous thing when we hear talk of a man being so clever at all things, yet nobody would employ him, simply because he is not sufficiently clever in one thing; the fact is, he is Jack-of-all-trades and master of none. Now I sincerely hope you will not make such a Fancier as this; I have heard some of the best Carrier Fanciers, and some of the best Pouter Fanciers, when asked their opinion on the Tumbler, have stated that they did not know anything about the properties of the bird, not having studied them, owing to having given their whole attention to one species, either the Carrier or Pouter; nevertheless, I should be very sorry to give either of these Carrier or Pouter Fanciers (I have in my mind's eye) the choice of going into my aviaries or lofts, to pick out what Tumblers they chose, although, comparatively speaking, they did not know the Tumbler, as compared to the Carrier or Pouter. I am sorry whenever I hear of a Carrier or Pouter Fancier giving them up; they are most splendid birds, and well worthy the attention of good Fanciers. It is possible there may be a few Fanciers that have a good general knowledge of Fancy Pigeons, but there are many more who labour under a delusion by supposing they know, which they do not. The five properties of the Tumbler, Carrier, and the Pouter,

many other kinds. The same methods have been taken in most other countries as well as England, to gain this experimental knowledge, as in Holland, France, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Persia, and Morocco. In the three last of which places, the Monarchs themselves have officers, called keepers of the Pigeons. Having thus mentioned the King of Morocco, give me leave to entertain you with the following story out of the *Sieur. Mouette* in his travels through that kingdom.

7.—There was among the other captives in Morocco, one Bernard Bausset, a youth about twenty-five years of age, and one of the family of the Baussets, ancient consuls of Marseilles and born in the town of Aubaigne in Provence; he had the keeping of the King's Pages' Clothes and Arms, and of the Stores laid up at the first gate of the Seraglio; besides which, he taught two of the king's children to speak Spanish. That prince having taken a liking to, and desiring to raise him higher than the Christian religion would allow of; he tried all possible means to oblige him to become a Mahometan, and perceiving he could not prevail by fair means, very often had recourse to severity and ill usage. Being one day highly provoked at his constancy, and laying hold of the pretence of two or three bits of straw he saw lying before him, and of Bausset's neglecting to cause the way between the two gates of the seraglio to be swept, he caused him to be stripped stark naked, and two blacks, with each of them a handful of leather straps to give him above five hundred stripes; so that his body was all over as black as a shoe. In this condition, he sent him with two heavy chains to be cured in our prison, and several days after called for, and asked him, why he stayed in the *Bitte*, so they call the Slaves' Prison, whilst his meal was stolen. It seems that day a sack had been taken out of one of the magazines that are near the gate of the Seraglio. Sir, said Bousset, I stayed there ever since you sent me, and durst not come away, without your orders. Hereupon the king struck at him with a spear, and hurt him under the right eye, and then ordered his guards to cast him into the Lion's Walk: that walk is like a court between four high walls, joining to the castle, and was parted from our *Bitte* or prison, by a wall, but three hands in thickness, which the Lyons once undermined, and had like to have got in to us.

8.—The youth hearing that sentence pronounced, ran to the ladder that went up to the place, intending to throw himself in, before any other came to do it. The king dismounted from his horse, and went up after, bidding him change his religion, or he should be immediately devoured by the lions. Bausset resolutely answered, he was not at all concerned at it, since that was the way to make him happy; for they could take but one life from him, which would end gloriously, and he had rather the Lyons should devour his body, than that his soul should become a prey to devils. Hereupon the king drew near the edge of the wall, to cast him down headlong; but Bausset, who observed him narrowly, perceiving his design, leaped himself amidst four Lyons, of a monstrous size, who had not been fed in three days.

are so opposed to each other in the standard as laid down by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, that only bothers and confuses the young Fancier if he attempts too much at once; therefore, my advice to the young Fancier is, to make himself master of one of the species of the Fancy first, and I have no doubt his observations and reflections will teach him that he has his work to do, in giving his whole attention to one species. I have very little opinion of a person becoming A. 1. in the Fancy, who strives for too much at once; therefore, I caution you not to attempt with different sorts. But to return to Mr. MOORE's amazement and astonishment, he might have saved all this, if he had drawn this inference—How very few was competent to write on the subject, it being the work of a Fancier.

9.—Those creatures beholding their prey, rose up, and roaring put themselves in a posture to fall on him, whilst he offered up his prayers to heaven. But they as if with-held by some secret Power, presently lay down again. Yet some of them soon after got up, and made towards him, and being near passed by, without touching him, among the rest, one that was most ravenous came up to him seven times, and passed by as often. Thus the captive, like another Daniel, praised God, amidst those fierce creatures, which had not the power to hurt him.

10.—The king, who withdrew as soon as he fell in, sent twice to see whether he was devoured, and in case he was not, to offer to take him out, if he would turn Mahometan; but he returned them the same answer he had given to the king himself. We were all at our prayers to implore the divine assistance upon him, and having made some holes through the wall, that parted us from lions to see, we encouraged him to be resolute and die, rather than renounce his religion, which he zealously promised us.

11.—In the mean while a Spanish woman captive went to petition the king for Bausset's deliverance. She was called Mary of the Conception, born at St. Lucar de Barrameda in Andalusia; came to Mamora, to carry home her husband, who was banished, and they were both taken returning into Spain. Having abundance of wit, without the least immodesty, she had gained the king's affections, who granted her whatsoever favour she asked either for Moors or Christians. She was called the common mother of all persons in distress, for she never thought much to sue for them. Her husband, whose name was John de Cormona, and she, had had the charge of the king's Pigeons and fed the lions. The king having a kindness for Bausset, was pleased she should intercede, and gave orders immediately to have him taken out. No sooner had he spoke the word, than all the pages ran, striving who should be foremost, and left the king alone, at the first entrance into the Seraglio, which so highly offended him, that he called them back, and laid eight of them on the floor, all bloody and wounded with his scimitar.

12.—However, when his wrath was appeased, the captive woman redoubled her entreaties so earnestly, that he could not refuse her, but ordered that she should go with her husband and one Prieur, a surgeon of Poitiers, to take Bausset from among the lions, which was accordingly done, when he had been there five hours; for he leaped in at four, and came out at nine. Some days after, the lions shewed not the same respect to three Faquers or Doctors of the Law of Mahomet, who took upon them to reprove the king for his cruelty, and were therefore cast into the same place, and immediately torn in pieces by the lions. This story was well attested, brought to Paris, and put into the hands of the reverend fathers the mercenarians of Paris, to satisfy such as may call the truth of it in question. However, I had not made use of this story, only as it shews that even kings have been proud to confer the greatest favours upon those who were no more than the keepers of their Pigeons. Thus we see how the knowledge of these birds has been propagated and encouraged in most parts of the World at a very great expense, while every observer had still this natural History to obtain in the same experimental and costly way, and was often grossly imposed upon by having a mixed strain put into his hands instead of the real species; yet notwithstanding all this, and the ease wherewith it might have been accomplished, I find an almost profound silence among the Naturalists upon this head.

13.—I have, therefore, ventured first to launch forth into this new science, not being insensible that I shall leave much room for others to make great improvements, if any shall hereafter think it worth their while to follow that track which I have only pointed out to them; and I hope the learned world know how to make allowances for a first attempt in the advancement of any kind of knowledge. (13 *)

13.—To the young and inexperienced Fancier,—I am particularly desirous of calling your attention to Paragraph 13. ; it is nearly worth the whole of the

paragraphs put together, until we come to the considerations of the properties of the Pigeons as laid down by the standards, which we have to breed up to and surpass if possible.

The late Mr. JOHN MOORE here most distinctly states positively, without evasion or equivocation, that he was the first to launch forth into this new science, and I am bound to believe him, having never seen an earlier Work on the subject; at the time I am writing, 1852, and Mr. MOORE'S Work was published in 1735, being 117 years ago, the inference I therefore draw is, that it is true; it would be folly in a young Fancier to state it was not true, unless he was prepared to prove it by books of an earlier date, as old Fanciers would know that the young Fancier was not old enough to recollect it. It is my intention to reprint the whole of the late Mr. JOHN MOORE'S Work upon Pigeons word for word, and if any inaccuracies arise, it will be the fault of the Compositor, it not being my wish to alter a single letter, believing his Work to be the original upon Fancy Pigeons, and is the groundwork from which all other Works on the subject have been taken, which, by-and by, I shall endeavour to prove; had it not been the fact, Fanciers of that time would have contradicted; Authors, Compilers, and Commentators, would have handed it down to posterity; and to prove my assertion, I would recommend the young Fancier to obtain as large a library as possible on the subject. I shall give you the late Mr. JOHN MOORE'S Work, Columbarium: or the Pigeon House, word for word. There will not be any occasion for you to strive to obtain a copy, and which if you did, I believe would be labour in vain.

I would recommend you to obtain a Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, inscribed to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., the Author concealing his name, printed for and sold by C. BARRY, Ingram Court, Fenchurch Street; sold likewise by P. STEVENS. near Stationer's Hall, Ludgate Street; A. WEBLEY, Holborn; and J. WALTERS, Charing Cross, 1765; also a Work—The Complete Pigeon Fancier, by DANIEL GIRTIN, Esq. printed for ALEXANDER HOGG, 16, Paternoster Row, London; also, a Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, Author not named, printed for ALEXANDER HOGG & Co., 16, Paternoster Row, London, 1802 and 1804; also, the Naturalists Library, that part which relates to Pigeons; Ornithology, Vol. 5th, part 3rd, by PRIDEUX JOHN SELBY, Esq., F.R.S., E.F.L.S., M.W.S., &c. &c.; W. H. LIZARS, 3, St. James's Square, Edinburgh; S. HIGHLEY, 32, Fleet Street, London; and W. CURRY, Jun., and Co., Dublin, 1835; also, the Dovecote and the Aviary, by the REVEREND E. S. DIXON, M.A.; JOHN MURRAY, Albemarle Street, London, 1851; also, PETER BOSWELL, on Pigeons, sold by GEORGE ROUTLEDGE, 36, Soho Square, London. *I have seen some books published by Routledge*

I cannot help thinking but that I am justified, and I think this the best place to call the attention of the Gentlemen of the Fancy to a very great error, that is printed in a clever little Book,—being a compilation on Bees, Pigeons, Rabbits, and Canary Birds, by PETER BOSWELL, Esq.,—Greenlaw, to be obtained of GEORGE ROUTLEDGE, 36, Soho Square, London, 1846. The "error" which I wish to call your attention to, is in page 42. of the Work, and runs thus:—The best authenticated Treatise on Domesticated Pigeons, especially regarding the fancy varieties, was published by BARRY, of Fenchurch Street, in 1765. That Treatise

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*A Treatise on Domestic Pigeons. London Printed for
the Proprietors. per letter 2.6. dd. sent me by Mr.
Green. — before 1809. for name near the title.*

has been succeeded by MOORE's Columbarium, and some others, founded on their authority ; the very reverse is the fact of the case, Mr. MOORE's Work "preceded instead of succeeded," exactly thirty years. Mr. MOORE's Work was published in 1735 ; whereas, the Work published by BARRY, of Fenchurch Street, was 1765, and is inscribed to JOHN MAYOR, Esq., the Author concealing his name. It is very likely that JOHN MOORE, the Pigeon Fancier, was in Heaven at the time the Work was printed. (There is something in the year 1765 which I never can forget, and that was, the year my late excellent and much respected Father was born, December 7th, 1765.) The compilation in which this error is discovered, is, as I said before, a clever little Work, and, although there are errors in it which could only be discovered by Pigeon Fanciers, it is written with so much candour by PETER BOSWELL, Esq., that if he had had the two Works by him, the error would not have crept in, and no doubt will be rectified in the next edition ; at the same time little knowing how much of his Work, although not taken direct from Mr. MOORE's Work, (possibly he never saw it) contains so much original matter belonging to Mr. MOORE. I informed you before, the clever little Work treated upon Bees, Pigeons, Rabbits, and Canary Birds.

Allow me to inform you all I know about Bees. On one fine summer's evening, about forty-five years ago, a schoolfellow and I were going to a place called the Pound, in the New River, to bathe, in passing through Canonbury Fields we stopped to see a gentleman who was Fly Fishing with house flies, which he had in a bottle, we were surprised at how fast he caught the various fish ; we made up our minds to try our luck at this new science of Fishing, for neither of us, I believe, had seen it before, at all events, with such success ; I can almost fancy I now see us on the bank, for I have a strong recollection of the fact—although my schoolfellow, brother Bob, (George Freeman), for we were two young disciples of old Izaac, is dead ; my much respected old schoolfellow, Henry Major, and myself followed him to the grave—with our traps already to begin Fly Fishing ; we had stiff bottom rods, this was not from choice but from necessity, we knew very well what we stood in need of ; but having our pockets oftener to let than tenanted, I hope I may be spared the trouble of trying to impress it upon your minds that we were poor, not from choice but from necessity. All being now ready to commence Fly Fishing, we discovered that we had made a little mistake, that of coming without the flies in the bottles ; we were too good pupils of old Izaac to be daunted, owing to our forgetfulness, recollecting that hope and patience supports the Fisherman. It was a beautiful fine evening when we saw the gentleman Fly Fishing ; but the following evening when we thought of going at it, was bitter cold, we looked round the fields and trees for May flies (although it was in June), or any other fly, we were not particular, flies being scarce owing to the coldness of the evening, we looked out hard for flies, but it was labour in vain ; we got disheartened for that evening and agreed to put up our traps. I felt as though I wanted something to warm and awaken me up ; at this moment a Bee came flying by, I knocked him down with my hat, told my schoolfellow I expected to take a large Chub with it ; I almost imagined I heard the fish to say to my bait as I intended—I'll eat you, body and all ; but I expected the hook would stick

in his gill or somewhere else ; I was not very particular, but reasoned with myself, that a large bait deserved a large fish, I was sanguine in my mind that I should catch a rum-un—so I did ; have a little patience with me and I will tell you all about it, I was a good arithmetician, and understood Cocker well for my age ; a little learning is a dangerous thing,—I was aware that the Bee had a sting, and always supposed the fang or trunk in the head was the sting, but not be wrong in my Cocker, and it is acknowledged in a multitude of council there is safety. I consulted my brother Bob where its sting was, and he pointed out to me its trunk which only confirmed my opinion, (and I thought two heads better than one if they were only calves' heads, which they proved to be) ; although I had knocked the Bee down with my hat, I had only stunned it ; being aware where its sting was, and acting with the utmost caution, narrowly watching with all my eyes his trunk, I proceeded with the courage of an Angler, but with an especial eye (on its trunk lest it should sting me) to place it on the hook ; quick as lightning I dropped my rod, as though red hot ; I was half way down the field upon one leg before you could have said " Jack Robinson," my brother Bob ran after me to know what was the matter with me, he never would have caught me, had he not run cunning like the hound—" on the bias ;" do you suppose I could stop and tell him,—no more than the man with the cork leg,—if it had been possible I could have stopped, it would have bothered me, not knowing myself ; my brother Bob no doubt thought I was cracked ; he certainly was right this time, but decidedly wrong as to where the sting was ; I knew I was cracked, it was very small, what it wanted in size was made up with virulence. I have often thought of it in my sober moments, what it was that caused me to go upon one leg, and when that I was tired to go upon the other, like as you have seen dogs in the street going upon three legs, resting one then dropping the rested leg, and resting the tired leg ; whether the cork leg has stopped yet I do not know, but the last time I heard of it it was going at a terrible rate ; at last, my legs stopped, and when I came to my old school-fellow all in a sweat—no doubt a cold sweat—I had a colour like a turnip ; we looked volumes at each other, but the subject would not do to dwell upon. It is said there is not any mistakes in figures, although persons may be out in their Cocker ; I had several ideas in this little affair, I thought I wanted warming, and, waking up, I thought a large bait deserved a large fish ; I made sure of catching a rum-un, I did not care where the hook caught so that it held fast, it was all carried out by the Bee hooking in the tender part of the thumb—a Jack and a Flat. Several fly rods since then have come into my possession ; I believe I have never attempted since, and whenever I see a Bee I am lost in wonder and astonishment at it. Those beautiful words of Watts " How doth the little busy Bee, &c. &c." comes to my mind, at the same time always keeping a respectful distance from them for auld acquaintance ; I richly deserved all I got for knocking down an industrious Bee, and received my reward, and have not the slightest wish to scrape acquaintance with them again ; I apologized to you to allow me to tell you all I knew about Bees, I have now informed you.

In part of Paragraph 14, Mr. MOORE says, " I have sometimes endeavoured to relax the mind, by throwing in some diverting parts of history, which though not

altogether necessary to the main purport of the Treatise, will, I hope, answer the end for which they were designed. Mr. MOORE knew, as a wise man, there was a time for all things—a time for hard thinking, and a time to relax the mind. I am confident that no one will make a good Fancier who has not his head placed on his shoulders in the right way, and his brains properly scraped, and then it will avail you nothing unless you exercise those brains in deeply thinking. A thorough good and acknowledged Judge or Fancier, never acquired his experience by mere accident, but must be the result of observation and reflection. I entertain very little opinion of that Gentleman joining a Pigeon Fancy Society, supposing he knows all about it, unless it be true, (if so, so much the better,) or it opens his eyes to conviction and that he is all at sea, there is hope that this person, in due time, will be a Fancier; but, on the contrary, that Gentleman never will that imagines that he sees and perceives through all at once, or at first sight. It is possible he may do for a Chancellor of the Exchequer, or any thing else (save a Fancier.) It is wise to mind our stops, and be a little too slow, than like the fast Man upon Town, or his Country Cousin—the Go-a-head-man. To return to my old friend Cocker, to give us the total of this Paragraph; for he knew from his observation and reflection there was not any possibility of gaining a thorough knowledge of Fancy Pigeons, but from long study and experience. He was fully sensible that studying the points and properties of the birds are often tedious and irksome, and therefore threw in some diverting parts of History; I have no doubt some of the young Fanciers will think that I handle the matter too serious; I do not wish to deceive the Fancier, but plainly to inform him, that he has his work to do; I am fully as sensible as MOORE, that it is dry work, and requires to be enlivened up by facts, stories, and anecdotes. I sincerely hope I shall be able to get up the steam, and render the subject as pleasant as possible, giving everything its due consideration, or weighing it in the balance. I fancy I am of too serious a mood to try my hand at wit, at the same time it is not Philosophy to be unhappy to-day, because we may be miserable to-morrow, and I cannot help thinking that we may as well be merry as sad. I cannot tell, my young Fanciers, how you feel in reading it; I, who am writing it, feel dry, and as Parsons beautifully wind-up, having finished this Pint, let us have a Full Pot.

I will hope against hope that you have obtained the small Library of Books, written by the various Authors on the Subject we have now under consideration, as before recommended; at all events, I hope you have tried. It may be that you have obtained the Works. My object in advising you to obtain as large a Library of Works, and of the earliest dates, upon the subject; then commencing by reading carefully over a few times the earliest date, say JOHN MOORE, 1735, then read the Work dedicated to JOHN MAYOR, 1765, thirty years after MOORE, carefully comparing the Work 1765, to the Work 1735, and as you read and compare the Works together interline with your pen, what you find in the second book what you find in the first, but do not interline that which is not in the first book, which leaves the un-interlined original matter due to the Work 1765; follow up the plan by comparing DANIEL GIRTIN's Work, without date, to the two former works, interline all you have read before, but not that information which is not contained in the two prior books, which leaves the un-interlined

(13*) I am very sensible that proper Icons are of very great service to illustrate a Work of this nature; but this piece being in its kind new, (13†) and not being able

original matter due to Mr. DANIEL GIRTIN; proceed in the same way with the Columbarian Work of 1802 and 1804, and that which you do not interline is original matter, and is due to the late celebrated Almond Fancier and the Author — WINDUS, Esq. Solicitor, Southampton Buildings, Holborn, Follow up the same plan with regard to the Naturalist's Library, vol. 5, part 3, on Pigeons, by PRIDEUX JOHN SELBY, Esq. F.R.S., E.F.L.S., M.W.S., &c. &c. 1835. Also, the Dovecote and the Aviary, by the Rev. E. S. DIXON, M.A. &c. &c. 1851, and what you have not read or discovered in prior dates give each Author according to the earliest dates the credit of originality, and nothing more; at the same time I am aware there are Works published at One Shilling, others at Sixpence, and I once saw a Work published at One Penny; when you come to read over all the Works you can obtain, after my style of interlining, you will then find out to whom the credit is due, as to originality. Read, also, the Natural Histories, Encyclopædias, some of the larger Dictionaries, &c. &c. in search of original matter, then discover how far the Works are the echo and re-echo of Works of prior date; if Mr. MOORE had seen some of the Works recently published he would have thought it a burlesque upon Pigeons.

Mr. MOORE, in the same Paragraph, states, "Not being insensible that I shall leave much room for others to make great improvements." Query? I very much doubt whether any Fancier could surpass his Observations and Reflections; if a Fancier could not accomplish it, no other Writer could; with regard to others following in the tract, which he says "I have only pointed out to them;" from whatever cause very few have followed him, although many have promised. If it was possible for Mr. MOORE to have seen the progress that Authors and Pigeon Fanciers have made after One Hundred and Seventeen Years, he would not have had any occasion to hope, that the Learned World knew how to make allowances for a first attempt in the advancement of any kind of knowledge.

13* Moreover, he is fully convinced "that proper Icons are of very great service to illustrate a work of this nature," &c. It is my intention to illustrate this Work with the best engraved and coloured portraits of Fancy Pigeons, as encouraged by the acknowledged best Fanciers that ever lived; viz. the Almond Tumbler, the Black Mottle Tumbler, the Yellow Bald-head, the Red Beard, the Black Carrier, and the Blue-pied English Pouter. The Portraits belonging to this Work are as large as life, and, on inspection, will be seen they have never been surpassed. They will not be bound up with the Work, simply for the more easy reference of the young Fancier while studying the Work.

13† Mr. MOORE observes, "the Work being New, and not knowing whether it would be attended with profit or loss,"—that appears to me to be the true reading of it—besides swelling the price too high for many, he abandoned having Portraits rather than bad ones, which shewed his good sense. I only wish it was possible he could witness the Icons, as he called them, that will accompany this Work; it is possible, provided we could find, and place the portraits over, his grave, like the "Tally Hoo" over Tom Moody's grave, that he is fairly ran down.

to guess at what reception it may meet with from the World ; I knew the expenses of exact cuts would swell the price too high for many that may have a mind to purchase this Work ; and on the contrary, that if they are not delineated with the utmost accuracy according to their various characteristicks, they only puzzle the mind, and render the description of them more obscure ; and, therefore, I chose rather to have none, than bad ones.

14.—In the sequel of this Work, I have endeavoured as near as possible to give exact criterions for the knowledge of each distinct species ; and being aware that bare descriptions are often tedious and irksome, I have sometimes endeavoured to relax the mind by throwing in some diverting parts of history, which though not altogether necessary to the main purport of the Treatise, will I hope answer the end for which they were designed.

15.—Being well assured that this book will fall into the hands of many of the illiterate part of mankind, who are altogether ignorant of the terms of Art, and even in the meaning of many words of more frequent use among the politer part ; I have for the sake of such added an Alphabetical Explanation of the less common words made use of in this Treatise.

16.—So hoping it will have the desired effect, of pushing on some abler Pen, I commit it at once to the candid censure of Mankind.

14.—It is certain that Mr. MOORE must have been a rare Fancier, or he never could have defined the different species and their properties so true as he has done, unless he had been a great Observer and Reflector.

COLUMBARIUM :

OR, THE PIGEON HOUSE.

THE INTRODUCTION.

17.—ZOOLOGY, or the History of Animals, has been a task in all ages deemed worthy the consideration of the best and ablest Philosophers, and many branches of this useful history have been handed down to us from them in an elegant and instructive manner, showing us the beauty and wisdom of providence and our great Creator, in the formation of such an almost infinite variety of creatures, and raising our thoughts to the sublimest notions of that tremendous Being, whose almighty fiat gave them birth; at the same time teaching us to adore his bounty and goodness in making mankind their superior, and submitting them all to his use. The contemplation of God in his creatures sets us such a lesson of humility, as ought to make the proud man blush, and humbly prostrate himself before the throne of that omnipotent invisible Deity, whose hand supports him in common with the brute creation

18.—I could wish some abler pen had undertook the work now before me, but having examined most of the writers on these subjects, and finding in them either no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, which for want of a

17.—We ought to feel grateful to Mr. MOORE in calling our attention, or reminding us, that we are creatures and not the Creator, and that "All is vanity under the Sun."

18.—Mr. MOORE, over and over again, appears to deeply lament and deplore the task of writing, or giving information to the Pigeon Fanciers, had not fallen to the lot of some abler pen than himself. In commenting on his writings to the same effect prior, I made use of this word—Query. I repeat now again, Query; and ask, If ever there was a Fancier who could have done more than Mr. MOORE did, considering it was the first attempt at this new Science, and not having any tract or line pointed out to him to follow? He had examined most of the writers on these subjects, and finding in them either no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, which for want of a due opportunity to examine the Bird they were describing, they have generally taken up at random and upon credit. Mr. MOORE says, "I thought it, in some measure, incumbent on me to attempt a Natural History of this kind, partly as having in my house most of the sorts to be described, and partly to provoke other Gentlemen who have more skill and ability to rescue this part of the History of Animals from that obscurity it has so long laboured under." When the idea struck Mr. MOORE to attempt a Natural History of Pigeons, it was a lucky thought for the Gentlemen of the Fancy, and a fortunate thing that no one else had attempted it prior, otherwise it might have not been half so well executed, and have been the means of preventing Mr. M. from writing upon the subject, which would have been a great loss to the Gentlemen of the Fancy.

due opportunity to examine the bird they were describing, they have generally taken up at random and upon credit; I thought it in some measure incumbent upon me to attempt a natural history of this kind, partly as having in my own house most of the sorts to be described, and partly to provoke other gentlemen who have more skill and ability, to rescue this part of the history of animals from that obscurity it has so long laboured under.

19.—In order therefore to render this treatise, (which has been so long due from one part of my countrymen, I mean the naturalists, and so long desired by another) as compleat as possible, I shall divide this book into two parts; in the first I shall treat of the method of keeping, breeding, and preserving of Pigeons, and in the second I shall give an account of the different sorts, endeavouring to clear up all obscurities, and render the knowledge and distinction of the several

19.—Mr. MOORE observes in this Paragraph, “in order therefore to render this Treatise, which has been so long due from one part of my countrymen, I mean the Naturalists, and so long desired by another,” (alluding to the Pigeon Fancier, although he does not exactly say so in his Work, which from beginning to end, is entirely written and confined to the Pigeon Fancier.) Mr. M. cannot help thinking that the Naturalists had greatly slighted the Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy. Could a Naturalist have written upon a subject unless he was a Pigeon Fancier? It is possible a Naturalist might compile and write upon a thousand different animals and birds for the general reading of the millions, as lions, tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, camels, dromedaries, camelopards, &c.; or birds, the eagle, ostrich, or the titlark, and Cochin China fowls, &c. &c. I am not aware that the Naturalists have raised a standard, or how many properties constitute the standard, as laid down to test the lion or tiger, &c.; but this may arise from the want of pluck on the part of the Naturalists in not going into their pens, examing their properties or points, for fear of catching cold. The Gentlemen who delight in the song of birds, and who understand their song, as laid down by Bird Fanciers, have as much right to bitterly complain as does Mr. MOORE, that the Naturalists had entirely overlooked them, and had not given any account of the execution song birds execute; imagine to yourself, a match made by two Bird Fanciers, each, supposing they had the best titlark between wood and wire, to sing a match for half an hour, as a matter of course the bird performing the most execution would win; but would it be right and fitting to appoint a Naturalist to keep score unless he was a good Bird Fancier, and understood their song, such as weeting, sweeting, chousing, fearing, whisking, laughing, rattling, and their objectionable song, such as snuffling, shiting, &c. I tell you plainly it is the office of the Bird Fancier; how frequently do you hear persons say sweet, sweet, pretty dick; supposing the bird to say sweet, instead of weet, but they do not understand them, whereas, a Bird Fancier would remain quiet and listen to their song and execution.

Should it so happen that I can attend at the grand Birmingham Show of ornamental and domestic Poultry, at Christmas, after viewing the Pigeons, my attention would be called to see the Cochin China Fowls. As a matter of course my attention would be directed to those birds that had taken first, second, or third prizes; prior to that, I should endeavour to obtain the best written

species facile to all those, who either do or may hereafter delight in the contemplation of this innocent part of the creation; that by comparing any bird with the characteristics here given, they may be able to determine not only the species itself, but to form a tolerable judgment whether it be of the better sort or not: and to this end I have not only examined those birds of each sort which I keep myself, but have had recourse to, and consulted most of the oldest and most experienced persons that kept pigeons and delighted in this fancy.

Work on the celebrated Cochin China Fowl, instructing me of the properties, how many there are, and of what they consisted; not that I should know any more about them; but as every one has a beginning, I cannot help thinking that of obtaining the best Work or Works as laid down by the Gentlemen of the Cochin China Fancy, to guide the awarding of prizes by the umpires, as appointed by the Gentlemen of the Cochin China Clubs, to be the best and first step in the right way to obtain a knowledge of these celebrated Fowls, which obtained, the greatest number of points, or properties, as laid down; say five for argument, or seven or nine, it being necessary to have an odd number, otherwise the two best birds might equally divide the properties, then the prize could not be awarded. I said five for argument; supposing one bird to obtain shape and feather, two beautiful properties; but the bird shewn against it, obtained the other three properties, whatever they may be, the prize must be awarded by the judges to the bird that obtained the three properties, notwithstanding the other bird possessed shape and feather, which, as I observed before, are truly beautiful properties; if, on the contrary, the prizes are awarded to the general appearance of the bird. It is a clear proof there is not any standard laid down, (it is high time there was), which leaves the Judges and Fanciers in the dark, not knowing what they are aiming at. Surely, it is not the work of a Naturalist to lay down a standard, but the work of the Cochin China Fanciers.

With regard to those Pigeons that Pigeon Fanciers consider worthy of a standard; namely, the Tumbler, Carrier, and English Pouter: for instance, if the Tumbler possessed shape and feather, two grand properties; nevertheless, if another Tumbler is shewn against it, and possessing the properties of head, beak, and eye, the bird taking the three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, must of necessity be awarded the prize. Again, if a Carrier possessed length and thinness of neck, length of body, and great width of chest, which is, after all, only one property—shape, also the head; nevertheless, if another Carrier is shewn against it, and possessing the properties of beak, wattle, and eye, the bird taking the three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down, must be awarded the prize. Again, if an English Pouter possessed the properties—shape, and beauty in feather; nevertheless, if another English Pouter is shewn against it, and possessing the properties of length of body, length of legs, crop, the bird taking the three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down by Fanciers, must be awarded the prize, notwithstanding the general appearance of the bird possessing shape and feather, which, as I said before, is truly beautiful.

Having a standard laid down to test the birds, creates harmony, and removes unpleasantness. If two Gentlemen of the Fancy agree to shew two Almond Tumblers for a bottle of wine, bowl of punch, or a rump and dozen; if they are two free, honest good Fanciers, and their hearts in the right place, they do not require the umpires to tell them, which has lost or won, knowing that one bird has taken three, four, or the five properties, although the bird that lost, the owner would not take ten pounds for it; moreover, it silences the inexperienced Fancier, who shows for the five properties—his bird possessing shape and feather. The inexperienced Fancier, from the general appearance of his bird, supposes he has won, but the umpires inform he has lost, upon head, beak, and eye, of which he is satisfied; taking the general appearance of a bird, and not having a standard, is a very childish affair, and produces ill will. It is useless for umpires to inform a gentleman he has lost, and that is all he will say; it is better to have a standard, and point out the properties on which he lost, which would give greater satisfaction; besides, there are Fanciers (after the decision of the umpires) that are equal as good judges, if not superior in judgment, for it often happens that the umpires do not keep birds; at all events, they have no right to have any birds contending for the prizes. If there is not any standard, and you take the general appearance of the bird, you might as well have young ladies from boarding-schools, for your umpires, who would look out a bird and call it very pretty.

The first time I had the honor of attending the Columbarian Society, held at the Gray's Inn Coffee-house, London, when the Almond Tumbler that took the first prize was shewn me, I expressed my surprise, (being a young head and beak fancier); but a gentleman, a good Fancier, made it clear to me, when he stated that it was the only bird in the pen that came up to the standard—Feather, which I will give you, viz. three colours—black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, and twelve in the tail; see J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, p. 7, on Feather. The Columbarian Society takes notice only of the Almond Tumbler, and very judiciously have their first prize Feather, to prevent Fanciers running from Feather. But if, on the contrary, there had been three Almonds, all standard birds, then the Umpires would have awarded the prize to the bird that obtained three properties out of the five, viz. Feather, Shape, Head, Beak, Eye. It sometimes happens that the first prize is not awarded, owing to a standard bird (Feather) not being exhibited.

This celebrated Society have another standard for Almond Tumblers, and that is for the bird that takes the most properties out of the five, namely, Head, Beak, Eye, Shape, and Feather, and this bird is, generally, the Lion of their Anniversary. It so happened, that the bird which was a standard feather and took the first prize, came into the possession of a friend of mine. I could have had the bird but would not, being a short-faced head and beak Fancier, and the bird possessing only one property out of the five, which was feather. How different was the case with regard to the bird that was the Lion of the Day, which was shewn for the five properties! I could have wished to have bought that bird, but I knew it would have been to have offered an insult to the Gentlemen forming that Society, although

20.—But not to detain you any longer with the introduction, I shall in the first place give an account in what manner to build your loft.

THE METHOD OF BUILDING A LOFT.

21.—A pigeon loft ought to be built to the south or south-west, the sun lying warmest on them from those quarters; but if you have not that convenience, you may make a hole in the roof of your house, and there lay your platform, smaller or larger as you think proper. A carpenter that is used to such work will put you in a method, always remembering to erect proper works to keep off those tormentors of the gentlemen of the Fancy—the cats, for in one night's time they will

they have a rule privately among themselves, by which any member of the Society has the privilege of putting up any bird in the pen to auction, and the owner of the bird has one bid and no more; if the owner of the bird is satisfied with the highest bid, the bird is sold; if, on the contrary, the owner puts a higher price on the bird, which often gives it a fresh fillip, and competition begins again, and whoever is the highest bidder obtains the bird: the bird I am writing of was sold for many guineas, for I know the gentleman who purchased it.

Why I should have written so much about the standard, I am at a loss to know, unless it is to throw out a gentle hint to umpires, who have a standard to test the birds by—to act strictly up to the standard as laid down, not forgetting themselves, and taking the general appearance of the bird, or to those Fanciers who appoint umpires to award prizes where there is no standard laid down; but the taking the general appearance of the bird, which is sure to give dissatisfaction. In a former part I mentioned very learned men, Naturalists, could write and edify the general reading of millions; I now inform you, they could not write to satisfy a few Gentlemen Pigeon Fanciers, unless they were Pigeon Fanciers themselves; Naturalists did write upon Fancy Pigeons. Did they please Mr MOORE? Certainly not. If we knew his private thoughts, for ought we know, in his estimation instead of being Naturalists, he may have set them down as naturals, for writing on a subject they did not understand. In looking over some of the Works published since Mr. MOORE'S day, was it possible to have shewn Mr. MOORE some of the engravings, and colouring of the tame and domesticated Pigeons, and to have asked him what birds they were, he, no doubt, would have answered that he thought they belonged to the eagle, or vulture specie, being so unlike the domesticated Pigeons. He expresses his surprise and amazement at the indolence of all our Ornithologists; he had examined most of the writers on the subject, and, finding in them no account at all, or else a very imperfect and superficial one, (for want of a due opportunity to examine the bird they were describing), they have generally taken up at random, and upon credit. He says, "I thought it in some measure incumbent upon me to attempt a Natural History of this kind, and to this end I have not only examined those birds of each sort which I keep myself, but have had recourse to, and consulted most of the oldest and experienced persons that kept Pigeons, and delighted in this Fancy." He certainly adopted the most wise course he could pursue, to carry out his object.

make a very great havock, and are generally observed to destroy those pigeons which you most value; so that 'tis better to be at some charge first, to prevent the incursions of such dangerous and fatal invaders, who seldom or never give any quarters.*

22.—Let your loft be large enough to contain the number of pigeons you intend to keep, always allowing at least two holes or breeding places for every pair; for the more room they have, the more quiet they will sit, and breed the better; I once knew a gentleman, who could not raise three young ones out of nine pair of breeding pigeons all the spring, and for above three months after, only by keeping them straitened in too narrow a compass: Whereas, about the latter end of August, or beginning of September, he moved them into a larger loft, and the same pigeons bred well, even then, and through the most part of the winter. The reason of this inconvenience is this, salacious cocks will often be playing to, and disturbing the others as they sit, and others who want room to sit will fight for nests, and by this means destroy both eggs and young ones.

23.—To make your breeding places, you may erect shelves of about fourteen inches broad, allowing eighteen inches betwixt shelf and shelf; for otherwise your tall powters, by being forced to crouch for want of height, will get a habit of playing low, and spoil their carriage. In these shelves erect partitions at about the distance of three feet, fixing a blind by a board nailed against the front, on each side of every partition; by this means you will have two nests in the length of every three feet, and your pigeons will sit dark and private. You may if you please, fix a partition between each nest, to prevent the young ones from running to the hen, when sitting at the other end, and cooling her eggs; for in breeding time, when the young ones are about three weeks old, the hen, if a good breeder, will lay again, and leave the cock to take care of, and bring up the young ones.

25.—In every nest you must put a straw basket, or earthen pan, both which are made and adapted to this very purpose; for besides that by this means the eggs are prevented from rolling out of the nest, you need never handle your young pigeons, if you have a mind to look on them, which often puts them into a scouring. Some like the basket best, as judging it warmest, and not so liable to crack the egg when first laid; others are for the pan, as not so apt to harbour vermin, and say that the foregoing inconveniences are easily remedied by giving them a sufficient quantity of clean straw, or frail; the frail is most valued because it lies hollow, and will last a great while, for when your young ones have left their nest, 'tis but taking hold of the ends of the frail, and the dung will shake off it, and the frail be as fit for use as before.

26.—As for your trap or aviary, it is always built on a platform or floor of deals, on the outside of your house, that your pigeons may have free passage into it; it is formed of laths nailed so close together, that the smallest pigeon can't make its

* 21.—MAYOR, p. 2. Notwithstanding the cats are natural enemies to Pigeons, it is a common thing to see one in most Pigeon lofts, which are put in there when very young, and by proper methods being used with them, such as sometimes beating them with a dead Pigeon, and holding an egg, made hot, to their nose, which intimidates them from touching the eggs, &c., they naturally become afraid of them, and will never hurt either the eggs or Pigeons, provided they are constantly supplied with food; they are extremely necessary in a loft, by keeping it clear of rats and mice, which are full as destructive to the Pigeons as the cats, by sucking their eggs, killing the young ones, and even the old ones, &c.

23.—See J. M. EATON's Almond Tumbler, p. 38, 39, &c. "There are," &c.

25.—Ibid, p. 39 to 41. "I have found," &c.

escape through it. Some build these very small, with three doors, one on each side, which all draw up together by pulling a single string, intending chiefly to catch stray pigeons, whom they decoy into it, by strewing hemp-seed, or rape and canary, which all pigeons are very fond of. Others build them very wide and lofty, so that four or five persons may conveniently stand in them together, with a shelf or two on every side, (*) designing them to give room and air to pigeons of the homing sort, which they are obliged to keep confined; this practice is of very great use, by keeping such prisoners in a good state of health.

27.—In order to complete your loft, you must furnish it with proper meat boxes, and bottles and stands for water.

28.—Your meat-box ought to be formed in the shape of a hopper, as a reservoir for their food, it must be covered over on the top, to prevent them from dunging among the grain; from hence the meat descends into a square shallow box, fenced in with rails or holes on each side, to keep them from flirting the grain over on the floor amongst their own dung.

29.—Your water-bottle should be a large glass bottle, with a long neck, holding three or four gallons, and its belly made in the form of an egg to keep them from dunging on it. This bottle should be set upon a stand or three-footed stool, made hollow at top to receive the belly, and let the mouth into a small pan, your water will by this means gradually descend out of the mouth of the bottle, as your pigeons drink it, and be sweet and clean, and always stop when the surface of the water meets with the mouth of the bottle.

30.—The reason of which is this, the belly of the bottle being entirely close at top, keeps off all the external pressure of the atmosphere, which pressing hard upon the surface of the water in the pan, which is contiguous to that in the bottle, is too potent for the small quantity of air, which is conveyed into the belly of the bottle with the water, and which consequently, as being the lighter matter, rises to the top of the bottle, as it stands in its proper situation, but the water being sucked away by your pigeons, that it no longer touches the mouth of the bottle, the confined air exerts its power, and causes the water to descend till they become contiguous as before.

THE METHOD OF MATCHING OR PAIRING YOUR PIGEONS.

31.—Your loft being thus finished and equipped, my next instructions shall be, how to match or pair your pigeons together; and here we must observe, that though they are very constant when mated to each other, seldom or never suing a divorce, except when either of them grow sick or very old, yet it is sometimes very difficult to make them couple to your liking.

32.—The best way therefore to effect what you desire on this head, is to erect two coops, usually called by the Fanciers matching places, close together, let the partition between be made of lath, that they may see each other, and you may easily contrive it so that they may both eat and drink out of the same vessels; feed them often with hemp-seed, which will make them salacious, and when you

* 26.—J. M. EATON. With a small private cupboard, to take a wee drop with these four or five brother Fanciers for "Auld Lang Syne," should the mornings be cold and frosty; or, *vise versa*, to quench the thirst, should it be hot or oppressive when the coppers are hot.

27 to 31.—See J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, p. 43, 44, 45, &c. "With regard," &c.

31 to 36.—Ibid, p. 10, 11, 12, 13, &c. "Matching and Pairing."

observe the hen to sweep her tail and shew to the cock, as he plays in the other pen, you may then put her in to him, and they will soon be matched.

33.—But if for want of this convenience, you are obliged at first to put them both into one coop, always put the cock in first, for three or four days or a week, and let him get master of the place, especially if the hen be a virago, or else they will fight so much as perhaps may settle in them an absolute aversion for ever after; but if the cock be first master of the house he will beat the hen, if obstinate, into compliance.

34.—Your pigeons being thus matched, turn them loose into your loft, and let them chose what nest they best like, or if you have a mind to fix them to any particular nest, you may effect it in this manner.—Make a lath machine, the length of your breeding places, closed in at top and bottom with boards, and projecting out as far as your loft will conveniently allow; one of your top boards must lift up with hinges, in order to put in meat and water, this you may hang before any hole, and put your pigeons in it, and when they have been five or six days used to the nest, take it away, in the night is the best time, and they will keep to that nest.

35.—The same method may be used, and is very good, to prevent your strain being adulterated by a false tread, which an over salacious hen will often submit to. Therefore keep them up by this method till the hen has laid both her eggs, then take it away and give them their liberty, till the hen has fed off her soft meat, then the hen will begin to be salacious again, therefore at that time confine them as before, and you are sure to keep your strain pure and entire. This method is somewhat troublesome, and therefore not worth using but for your best pigeons; as for those who breed for the dish, 'tis no matter whether they are bastardized or not.

TO KNOW A COCK FROM AN HEN.

36.—Having thus informed you how to mate or pair your pigeons, I shall next give you some instructions how to form a tolerable judgment whether a pigeon be cock or hen, for in this point the best and oldest Fanciers have been sometimes deceived; for this purpose, therefore, take the following rules.

37.—The hen has generally a shorter breast-bone than the cock.

38.—Her vent, and the os sacrum, or bone near the vent, is more open than in the cock.

39.—Her head and cheeks are thinner, and she does not look so bold as the cock.

40.—Her coo is shorter, and nothing near so loud and masculine as the cock's, besides the cock frequently makes a half round in his playing, which the hen does not, though a merry rank hen will sometimes show, and play almost like a cock, and if very salacious, will sometimes tread another pigeon.

41.—And lastly, in young pigeons, that which squeaks longest in the nest, is generally reputed a hen.

THE GENERATION OF PIGEONS.

42.—We come now to treat of the generation of this bird, that is, the method it makes use of for propagation of its species; and here I must acknowledge myself obliged to Dr. HARVEY (*) in his excellent treatise of the generation of animals.

41.—MAYOR, p. 26. Where there are two in a nest, the largest is thought to be a cock.

42.—GIRTIN, p. 135. In treating of this subject, we must candidly acknowledge, that we are somewhat indebted to the late ingenious Mr. JOHN MOORE, for the light he has thrown upon it.

* 42.—MAYOR, p. 14. We are partly obliged to Dr. HARVEY in his Treatise of the Generation of Animals, and partly to other authors.

43.—All animals therefore are distinguished into three sorts ; oviparous, or such as are formed from an egg ; viviparous, or such as are produced from the uterus alive and in perfection ; and vermiparous, or such as are formed from a worm.

44.—Though in fact the foetus of all kinds of animals is produced from an egg ; the only reason therefore of this distinction is, that in some animals, this egg (if I may be allowed the phrase) is hatched, or brought to perfection in the uterus, whereas all of the feathered kind emit or lay this egg, and produce their young from it by incubation.

45.—The Pigeon, therefore, is an oviparous bird ; I call it a bird, because all that belong to this genus feed their young ones for some considerable time after they are hatched ; whereas, the young ones of the fowl kind will search for their own food, and eat it themselves almost as soon as they are discharged from the shell of that egg in which they were produced.

46.—It will not here be amiss to give some account of the production of the egg. Nature produces in the ovary, or upper matrix of the hen or female bird, a great cluster of small yolks, sticking together like a bunch of grapes, which from this similitude Dr. HARVEY calls a vitellary, and adds that in Pigeons, he has observed this cluster of eggs to be all of a like magnitude, excepting only two which were larger than the rest, and were now ready to descend into the lower uterus or womb.

47.—The cock in the act of coition impregnates these eggs, and by a wonderful operation of Nature renders them prolific ; we shall not take upon us here to determine the method by which this is performed, but shall content ourselves with observing that there is a spot at each end of the egg, called by the learned, chalazæ, from the resemblance of a small hail-stone, and, vulgarly, the cock's treadles ; these, by a mistake, have been accounted to proceed from the emission of the male, and to contain the plastic virtue of the foetus, but experience has abundantly proved that these treadles are to be found in all eggs, whether they are prolific and fruitful or subventaneous and addle.

47.—MAYOR, p. 16. The eggs of the smallest birds may be judged by that of the hen, where the parts are more apparent. We may easily distinguish the yolk that is in the heart of it, as likewise the first white substance that surrounds it ; and, a second white, in which, the mass in the middle swims ; besides these, we can see the ligaments that sustain the yolk towards the centre of the egg, together with the membranes that enfold it, one yellow, another black ; and, a third and fourth, that encompass the whole ; and lastly, the shell that defends all the rest. What lies within these inclosures has the first formation ; the shell makes the last appearance, and hardens from day to day ; it is a fluxion of salts evacuated from the humours of the dam, and which the heat fixes and consolidates round the egg, to form a crust that has a double function—one is to put the mother into a condition of discharging the egg without crushing it—the second, is to preserve the young from all accidents till it be formed, and in a capacity to forsake the egg. We may even say that the egg performs, to young birds, the office of a breast and milk, with which the offspring of other animals are nourished, because the little chick that lies in the egg in the state of a nymph, and concealed under the skin of a worm, is first sustained with the white of the egg, and afterwards with the yolk, when the animal has gathered a little strength, and its parts begin to be fixed. Under this membrane that surrounds the yolk, is found a little cicatrice, or white spot, which is only the seed

48.—It is the opinion of most, and that not without great probability, that all the eggs a hen will ever lay, are contained in this vitellary or cluster, and that as soon as this number is exhausted, she will become effæte or barren. Some people therefore to abuse mankind, and vend a useless bird, will oil the vent of a barren hen and force an egg into it, to make you believe she is not effæte; if you happen to be thus imposed on, that you may not lose your seasons of breeding, by keeping such a hen matched to a good cock, we shall give a method to prove whether she be effæte or not. When the cock drives her hard to nest, give her a pair of eggs, and let her hatch them and bring up; pursue this method for two or three pair, if you value her, and if she be not barren; this, and cross-matching her, that is pairing her to another cock, will effectually bring her to laying.

49.—Before we leave this head, we cannot omit mentioning the dalliances made use of by this bird before coition, which are in a manner endearing and peculiar only to them. And here the cock when salacious, will by a voice at that time peculiarly harmonious, and by several pretty, and as we may call them, foppish gestures, woo the female, and endeavour to incline her to his embraces; she, if consenting, will soon shew it by her motions, as sweeping her tail, spreading her wings, and giving a nod with her head, as much as to say, good sir, you may if you please; from thence they proceed to billing, in which action the hen will put her beak into the cock's, who seems to feed her, after this she will squat and readily receive his tread.

50.—Your hen by this means being rendered prolific, they will seek out a nest, or convenient place, for the repository of their eggs, into which they will carry straw, frail, feathers, and such other materials, as they find proper to form

where the worm resides. The egg, into which this little animal is injected, becomes prolific; but that wherein no such creatures can be discovered, wants the seed, and contains only a barren nutriment. The females sometimes lays eggs without any congress with the male, but they never produce anything. The little chick, under the form of a worm, is continually situated on the yolk, and always ascends to the top of that side where the warmth of the dam attracts her; but as it would be quickly overthrown were it removed, and in such case would no longer be sensible of the heat that is so necessary to its welfare. The yolk is poized by two ligaments, which are always visible at the aperture of the egg, and fasten it on each side to the common membrane that is glued to the shell. Should one draw a line from one ligament to the other, it would not exactly pass through the middle of the yolk, but above the centre, and would cut the yolk into two unequal parts, so that the smallest part of the egg is of necessity raised towards the belly of the bird that performs the incubation, and the other part being more gross and weighty, always descends as near to the bottom as the bands will permit, by which means, should the egg be displaced, the young could not receive any injury, and whatever may happen, it enjoys a warmth that puts all about it in action. and by degrees completes the disengagements of its parts. As it is incapable of sliding down, it nourishes itself in ease, first with this liquid and delicate white, which is adapted to its condition, and afterwards with the yolk, which affords a more substantial food; and when its bill is hardened, and he begins to be uneasy at his confinement, he endeavours to break the shell, and does so in effect; after which, he issues out with his belly covered with the yolk that nourishes him a little longer till the parents supply him.

a warm and soft reception for the egg, neither party being at this time idle, though some are more industrious than others, on this account, who will lay their eggs almost on the bare boards.

51.—When a hen is nigh the time of her laying, her mate will pursue her from place to place, not suffering her to be quiet in any place but her nest, out of a peculiar instinct, I suppose, fearing his offspring should be lost, by her dropping her egg in some place improper for incubation. And here you must observe that some cocks are so very hot, that they wont, at such a time, suffer a hen almost to eat, this will render her very weak, and often make her lay a thin-shelled or imperfect egg; to prevent this inconvenience, the best way is to take the cock from her, till the egg be come to a greater perfection in the uterus.

52.—Pigeons though they will make a great increase in a year, yet it is not from the number of eggs they lay at one time, for they lay but two, and then immediately proceed to incubation, but from the frequency of the repeated hatchings, which generally happen once in five or six weeks, according as they are good or bad breeders.

53.—When a Pigeon has laid her first egg, she rests one day between, and on the succeeding day lays her second; they generally stand over the first egg, which, if you please, you may call an improper incubation, till the next is laid, and then sit close, that both young ones may be hatched at once, or pretty nearly; though some will sit close on the first, and by that means hatch one young one two days before the other.

54.—The time of a Pigeon's incubation, which trouble is equally divided between the cock and hen, except that the hen always sits at night, is nineteen or twenty days from the first egg, and seventeen or eighteen from the last, at which time you ought to observe whether the eggs are hatched or not, for two special reasons:

55.—First—Because your young ones, for want of due heat, which often happens if the old do not sit close, may want strength to extricate themselves out of the shell, and so die in it for want of air and proper sustenance; for the nutriment they received from the internal part of the egg is by this time exhausted; whenever therefore an affair of this nature happens, if the egg be chipped or cracked with the force of the young one, break the shell all round with your nail, or the head of a pin, and you will find your account in it.

56.—Secondly—If your Pigeons do not hatch, because their eggs are addle, or otherwise, you ought to give them a pair, or at least one young one to feed off their moist meat, which would else make them sick, and they will be apt to lay again too soon, which will weaken them very much.

57.—The young ones being thus ushered into the World, naturally leads us to take a view of the manner in which it receives its first sustenance. We have already mentioned soft meat, which is nothing else but a fine soft liquid pap prepared as it were by instinct by the parents, by a dissolution of the hard grains in their craw, against the time that the foetus is first disclosed, when weak, naked, and helpless; this soft meat they throw up out of their craw, taking the beak of their young ones in their own, and by this means injecting it into theirs; with this meat they continue feeding them for six or seven days, when they begin to mix some harder food amongst it, until at length they feed them with all whole grain.

53 to 58.—See J. M. EATON'S *Almond Tumbler*, p. 13, 14, "Much will," &c. p. 33, "When you," &c.

THEIR DIET.

58.—We come now to treat of their diet, or the food proper for Pigeons. (*) The Pigeon is a granivorous bird, and may be fed with various sorts of grains, as tares, horse-beans, pease, wheat, barley, hemp-seed, or rape and canary, of each of which in their order. (†)

59.—Of all grains, tares are found to be most adapted to these birds, and old tares are much the best, for the new are very apt to set your Pigeons into a scouring, especially the young ones; the same will likewise happen from old tares, if they have by any means been touched or immersed in salt or sea water: for though Pigeons love salt, yet too much is very pernicious, as for instance, if in a voyage you give them salt water instead of fresh you will soon kill them.

60.—Horse-beans are the next food to tares, but you must take care to get them as small as possible; there are a sort which they call small French ticks, which are good food, and somewhat cheaper than tares, but liable to two inconveniences; first, they are much harder of digestion, and consequently, will not so readily make soft meat for the young ones. Secondly, your Pigeons are sometimes apt to be choaked with them, especially young ones, and such whose oesophagus or gullet is any ways inclinable to be small, as in most long necked Pigeons it is. I had a carrier the other day, which fell down off my house into the yard, and when it was taken up, (I not being at home) it gaped, as I was informed, as if for want of breath, and died in a few minutes, it was very fat, and seemingly in good health; I opened it, to see if I could find any cause from within, but all its internals seemed perfectly sound and in good order, at last examining more strictly. I found a horse-bean, and that not a very large one, sticking in the lower part of the gullet, which, with some little difficulty, I pulled out; and this, I verily believe, was the only cause of its death.

61.—Pease, wheat, and barley are apt to scour your Pigeons too much, therefore you ought to give them very little, if any, of this sort of food.

62.—There is a sort of diet, called Scotch meat, which is pease, beans, and tares mixed together, some people feed their Pigeons with this, because cheap, but the beans are generally apt to be too large.

63.—Hemp-seed, rape and canary are food that Pigeons are very fond of, but by no means ought to be made their constant diet.

64.—N. B. Even French tick beans are not proper for Dutch Croppers, or any large cropt Pigeons, because they are apt to make them gorge.

THE SALT CAT.

65.—Being thus entered on the head of diet, it necessarily leads us to consider a certain useful composition called by the Fanciers a Salt Cat, so named, I suppose, from a certain fabulous oral, tradition of baking a cat in the time of her salaciousness, with cummin seed, and some other ingredients as a decoy for your neighbour's Pigeons; this, though handed down by some Authors as the only method for this purpose, is generally laughed at by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, and never practised.

58 to 64. See J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, 43, 44, 45, "With regard," &c.

* 58.—GIRTIN, p. 113. The common Pigeon gives but little trouble, yet the fancy birds require a great deal of attendance.

† 58—MAYOR, p. 27. The late grand duke of Tuscany, who was a very great Fancier, used to feed them with the stones of grapes, which in that country are ery plentiful, and call them together by ringing a bell.

66.—The right salt cat therefore is, or ought to be thus made: Take gravel or drift-sand, loom, such as the brick-makers use, and the rubbish of an old wall, or for want of this a less quantity of lime, let there be a gallon of each; add to these a pound of cummin seed, a handful of bay salt or salt petre, and beat them all up together into a kind of mortar, mixing them up with stale urine, and your Pigeons will take great delight in it.

67.—The gravel or sand helps to scour their craws, and is of great service to digestion.

68.—The loom being of an unctuous, oily nature, is a very great assistance to them in the discharge of their soft meat, or other meat when they are feeding young ones.

69.—The lime or rubbish helps to harden the shell of their egg; and you will find by experience, that when with egg they are prodigiously fond of lime, and will have it some way or other, if possible. By this means therefore you keep them from pecking the mortar off your own, or your neighbour's houses, though the damage from thence accruing cannot but be very trifling: for the whole length of their beak, and farther they cannot go, cannot reach far enough to loosen any tile that is naturally firm.

70.—The salt and urine is a great provocation to drink, and this is no small service to your Pigeons, which are of a very hot nature.

71.—The cummin seed, which has a strong smell in which Pigeons delight, will keep your own Pigeons at home, and allure others that are straying about, and at a loss where to fix upon a habitation.

72.—The best way is to put your salt cat in jars, with holes in the sides for them to peck it out, and a cork at top to prevent their dunging on it, and to keep off the rain, or any other contingencies if exposed to the weather.

DISTEMPERS OF PIGEONS.

73.—We come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure.

74.—1. The first disease therefore that we shall take notice of is, the corruption of the egg in the uterus; this generally proceeds from an unmatched hen being over salacious, by reason of high feeding, or some other cause, who will often without the coition of the male engender eggs, but seldom without his concurrence either perfect them or bring them forth, so that they will corrupt in the Womb; the only remedy for this is to put her to a cock in time.

75.—2. The wet roop next falls under our consideration, and in this case, once in two or three days give them three or four pepper corns at most, and put a handful of green rue in their water, you may let all your Pigeons drink of it, for it is very healthful.

73 to 98.—See J. M. EATON's Almond Tumbler, p. 45, 46, 47, 48. "As a," &c.

73 to 98.—GIRTIN, p. 124. In treating of the diseases relating to Pigeons, we shall chiefly follow the sentiments of the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, who was not only a very judicious Fancier, but also a gentleman of the faculty, who spared no pains to make himself acquainted with the diseases of these birds, and to apply the best method of cure, therefore, without further apology, we shall take him for our guide. MAYOR, p. 34. after guide.—We come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure. MAYOR AND GIRTIN gives word for word the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, on distempers and cures, and nothing more.

76.—3. The dry roop, which you generally distinguish by a husky cough; and I am apt to believe proceeds from a cold, to which they are very liable, especially in molting time; to cure this, give them every day three or four cloves of garlick.

77.—4. The next distemper that falls under our cognizance is, the canker, which proceeds mostly from the cocks fighting and pecking each other, though some people have assured me, that giving them water in a tin vessel, will likewise throw them into this disease. The method of cure is this, take burnt alum and honey and rub the part affected every day and it will cure it; but if this happens not to take effect, dissolve five grains of roman vitrol in half a spoonful of wine vinegar, add it to the former composition, and rub the part affected. Some people will take off the scurf and make it bleed, before they apply the remedy, but I am apt to believe, you will generally find it searching enough without.

78.—5. If the wattles or flesh round the eyes of the carrier, horseman, or barb, are pecked and torn, wash them first with stale urine for several days; if this does not do, dissolve two drams of alum in an ounce and a half of water and wash the part grieved; but if the case be very stubborn, mix twenty grains of red precipitate with half an ounce of honey, anoint the part therewith and it will certainly effect the cure.

79.—6. Pigeons, especially in the Summer season, are apt to be troubled with small insects, which the Fanciers term lice; in this case, smoak their feathers well with the smoak of tobacco, and it will infallibly kill them.

80.—7. There is another sort of small vermin, which are very troublesome, and will often kill your young ones in the nest, by creeping into their ears, &c. especially when first hatched, and always prevent their thriving; to hinder this, strew tobacco dust in the nest, and over your young pigeons, and it will destroy these vermin, which are called pigeons bugs by some, and by others the blacks.

81.—8. Another disease to which they are subject is gizzard-fallen, that is, the gizzard falls down to the vent. The gentlemen of the fancy, say it proceeds from weakness, though I rather believe it is caused by feeding with too much hemp-seed. I know no cure for this malady, unless nature herself works one, which it sometimes will in young pigeons.

82.—9. The next distemper is what the Fancy calls navel-fallen; in this case, there is a kind of a bag hanging down near the vent. This malady is generally desperate; and if giving them clary, or some other strengthening things won't cure them, I know nothing that will.

83.—10. Pigeons are liable to be pap-arsed, as the fancy call it. This distemper proceeds either from a natural innate weakness, or from a cock's being too salacious and treading his hen too often; I know no cure for it, except flying will do it. Young pigeons and carriers are most subject to it especially if not flown.

84.—11. Some pigeons, as croppers, and powters, are apt to gorge themselves, that is, when they have been too long from grain, they will eat so much that they cannot digest it, but it will lie and corrupt in the crop and kill the pigeon. If this therefore at any time happens, take the following method.

85.—Put them in a strait-stocking, with their feet downward, stroaking up the crop, that the bag which contains the meat may not hang down; then hang the stocking upon a nail, keeping them in this manner, till they have digested their food, only not forgetting to give them now and then a little water, and it will often cure them; but when you take them out of the stocking, put them in an open basket or coop, giving them but a little meat at a time, or else they will be apt to gorge again.

86.—If this does not effect the cure, you may slit the crop from the bottom with a penknife or sharp pair of scissars, take out the corrupted meat, wash the crop, and then sew it up again. This method has been practised with some success, though the crop will not be so round as before.

87.—Others will tie that part of the crop, in which the undigested meat lies, tight round with a string, and let it rot off. This method never fails, though it spoils the shape of the crop.

88.—12. The next and most fatal distemper incident to this kind of birds is the vertigo, or (as generally styled by the Fancy) the megrims; in this disease the pigeon reverts or turns its head, in such a manner, that the beak will lie on its back, and will flutter and fly about at random. This distemper is usually reckoned incurable, and indeed it too often proves so; though I once had a turbit, of the owl kind, taken with it in a violent manner. Some gentlemen seeing it, advised me to pull the head off; I told them, I would first try if I could not cure it, which they asserted to be impossible; however, I took about a quarter of a pint of water, an ounce and a half of spirit of lavender, one drachm of spirit of sal armoniac distilled with quick lime; these I mingled altogether, then I tasted it, and found it too strong for the bird, and therefore added a little more water; I believe in three or four hours, I poured down its throat, at three or four times, a spoonful and a half of this mixture, for I had rather it should die than live in that condition; at last it began to discharge a white slimy substance upwards and downwards, but did not care to feed that day; the next day I found it better, though still it would hold its head on one side, or awry. This medicine I gave it every third or fourth day, still lessening the quantity; I gave it garlic the days betwixt, and sometimes two or three peppercorns till perfectly recovered: I am not certain whether this pigeon ever bred afterwards or no.

89.—13. If your pigeons do not molt off kindly, or stop in their molting, so that they don't throw their feathers well, it is a certain sign of an ill state of health: to remedy this, the following method will be of much use.

90.—Pluck their tail-feathers out, and put them up in some warm place, allowing them a larger portion of hempseed with their ordinary food, a little saffron, or clary, steeped in their water, is likewise very beneficial; some will give them elder-berries or cochineal for this purpose.

91.—14. Your pigeons likewise, especially in molting time, will be subject to scouring, which keeps them very poor, low, and out of flesh. To cure this, give them pump-water with a lump of chalk in it, or put about the quantity of two horse beans down their throats every day; if that don't effect the desired end, give them some smiths forge water down their throats which is very binding. A gentleman told me, that having been informed, that gravel was good for his pigeons, he gave them some of the grit that is left in the trough under a grindle stone, where they ground edge tools, and it bound them so much that it killed most of them; a little of this may therefore be good in case of scouring.

92.—15. There is another distemper, which is called the small pox, in which there rise, on their legs, wings, and body, eruptions or pustules full of a yellow matter. Some open them, and apply burnt alum and honey, or touch them with Roman vitrol, and it will cure them.

93.—16. When your pigeons are sick, lowering, or hanging their wings, give them every day a spider or two, wrapt up in butter, and if you dare trust them let them fly.

94.—17. Pigeons will be sometimes lame, and the ball of their foot swelled, either through cold, or the prick of a nail: in this case, spread some venice turpentine on brown paper, apply it to the part, leave it there till well, which it will be in a very few days.

95.—18. The flesh-wen comes next under our consideration, which is no more but a fleshy tumor, arising on the joints of the wings or legs: this may be either cut off, or opened, and after having taken out the kernel, wash it with alum water.

96.—19. The bone-wen is an ossificated tumor, arising upon the joints as before: this is seldom or never cured, and the pigeon that is affected with it will never

breed. Some pretend to cure it, by a composition of quick lime and black soap ; but if you make it too strong, or let it lie on too long, it will take off the leg or other part that 'tis applied to, for it is a caustic.

97.—20. The last distemper I shall take notice of is a core, so called because it resembles the core of an apple ; it is hard and generally of a yellowish colour, intermixed with red, and is usually found in the anus or vent. This when ripe may be forced or drawn out ; and in order to ripen it and keep them loose, give your pigeon so affected a purge of tobacco ; a very small quantity is sufficient : I have known this make them discharge the core themselves. I once knew a pigeon affected with this sort of malady, in the oesophagus, or throat, some part was taken out, but the bird died.

THEIR USEFULNESS.

98.—Having thus instructed you how to breed, preserve and cure your pigeons, we shall next show their usefulness in human life.

99.—It is a bird well known to be much used by way of food ; and here I shall give you the remarks of one or two authors upon this head. Mr. Lemery in his treatise of foods, after having advised to the choice of young pigeons, that are tender, fleshy, and well fed, proceeds thus, "They are nourishing, somewhat binding, strengthening and provoke urine : they are looked upon to be good for cleansing the reins, and to expel the gross matters that stick there.

100.—As a pigeon grows old, so proportionably does its flesh become dryer, and more solid ; harder of digestion, and so fit to produce gross and melancholy humours ; and hence it is, that some authors have condemned the use of pigeons, and look upon them to be bad food.

101.—"They agree at all times with any age and constitution, but those that are melancholy ought to make use of them more moderately than other persons."

102.—Dr. Salmon in his *Sepladium*, or *English Physician*, which I look upon as the best book he ever wrote, says, "The flesh is not so easy of digestion as that of chickens. Authors say that eating of their flesh is profitable against the plague, insomuch, that they who make it their constant or ordinary food, are seldom seized with pestilential distempers. Others commend it against the palsie and trembling. Others say it is of great use and advantage to them that are dim-sighted. The flesh of young pigeons is restorative, and of good use to cure such as are in consumptions, and to recruit the strength of such, as are getting up, or newly recovered from some great sickness : It is indeed savory and good food, and not much inferior to the most esteemed. The anus of a live pigeon, applied to the biting of a serpent, viper, or rattle snake, draws away the poison and cures the sick, being renewed as often as the pigeon dies ; applied to the soles of the feet in a fever, it draws away the fever, and helps the megrims or head ache. Cut up alive and applied to the place pained, eases the pain and draws away the malignity, if any be ; for the vital spirits yet remaining in the hot flesh and blood, do insinuate themselves through the pores of the skin, into the blood of the sick person, now dispirited and ready to stagnate, enduring it with new life and vigour. Potestates made of the flesh, admirably cure consumptions, and restore wasted flesh.

103.—"The blood put warm into the eyes allays pain, cures blear eyes, and also green wounds.

104.—"℞ of the blood ʒji, honey ʒvj, white sugar candy ʒij ; grind them together till they are well mixed, for the purposes aforesaid ; as also against suffusions, blood-shots and other distempers and weaknesses of the eyes.

105.—"The coats of the stomach. ℞ of them powdered ʒj, opium in fine powder 4 grains, catechu in fine powder ʒij ; mix them. Dose 12 or 13 grains every night at going to bed.

106.—“The Doctor has left us in the dark what distemper this medicine is designed to cure, but I am apt to believe it is for a diarrhæa, yet I can't see of what use the coats of pigeons stomach can be, unless from their diuretic quality.

107.—“The feathers. R of the ashes of them ℥℥, sanguis draconis, fine bole, sheeps blood dried, fine aloes, ana ℥j; mix them. It stops bleeding in any part, being applied.”

THEIR DUNG.

108.—Having thus shown you something of the usefulness of this bird, both in food and physic, I cannot omit saying something of its most excrementitious part.

109.—The dung therefore of pigeons challengeth the priority, not only of the dung of fowls, but of all other creatures whatsoever, on the account of its usefulness in human life.

110.—Its benefit in agriculture is so well known to some farmers, that PLAT gives an account of those that have fetched it sixteen miles, and given a load of coals in lieu of it. Where he observes, that in the place it was fetched from, it would have done more hurt than good, whereas where it was carried, it did as much good as double the charges; in the one soil it cured the barrenness, whereas in the other it would have poisoned the fertility.

111.—It is of a very hot nature, from the nitrous quality wherewith it is endued, and therefore it is a very excellent soil for a cold, moist natured ground. It is generally used for wheat and barley that lye afar off, and not easily to be helped. One load of it is worth ten load of other dung, and will go as far in manuring of land. It is generally sown after the same manner as the grain, and harrowed in with it.

112.—It is likewise extraordinary good soil for a hop garden.

113.—Tanners make use of it in tanning the upper leathers, and if you pick and sift it, will give you eightpence a bushel for it, provided you send it home to their own houses; so that this article, and the young squabs will nearly, if not quite maintain your pigeons in food, provided you buy it at the best hand, and take care to keep them clean.

114.—Dr. Salmon, in his treatise before mentioned gives us the following account of its usefulness in medicine.

115.—“It is, says he, of common use in cataplasms or plaisters which rubify and draw strongly. Beaten, sifted, and mixed with water-cress-seeds, it is good against chronic diseases; such as the gout, megrim, vertigo, cephalæa, pains in the side, cholic, apoplexes, lethargies, &c.”

116.—After this he gives us several recipes in which the dung of pigeons is a main ingredient, as,

117.—“1 R. Of the dung in powder ℥iiij, barley-meal or flower ℥ij, vinegar q.f. mix them, to make a cataplasm against scrophulous and other like hard tumors.

118.—“2 R. Of the powder of the dung ℥ij, bears grease ℥iiij, pepper in powder ℥j, oil of cummin seed ℥℥; mix them for an ointment against baldness.

119.—“3 R. Of the dung in powder ℥iiij, black soap ℥ij, oil of amber ℥j, Mithridate ℥ij; mix them, for a cataplasm to ripen a plague sore.

120.—“4 R. Of the powder of the dung ℥j. Powder of winter cherries ℥℥ Cromwell seed ℥ij; mix them and make a powder against the stone. Dose, from from ℥℥ to ℥j.”

121.—This dung is used likewise in salt-petre beds, and is of very great advantage in the nourishing and production of it; and till the days of Oliver Cromwel, we had no salt-petre brought from abroad, but it was made at home, from a mixture of pigeons dung, fowls dung, hogs dung, fat earth and lime, which with another

ingredient will form salt-petre, only it must be kept covered with a shed, to prevent or keep off the rain, that it may only mix with the nitrous quality of the air; and therefore when this commodity is very dear, as it has often been, and may be again, the salt-petre men produce it after this manner to this very day, by throwing in the scum or refuse of their salt-petre amongst it.

122.—Thus we have shewn the various uses even of the most disesteemed and excrementitious part; but before we leave this head, we cannot forbear mentioning the following story out of Tavernier, in the fourth book of his first Volume of Persian Travels, page 146.

123.—Says he, speaking of the people of Ispahan, "As for their Pigeons, they fly wild about the country, but only some which they keep tame in the City to decoy the rest, which is a sport the Persians use in hot weather as well as cold. Now in regard the Christians are not permitted to keep these Pigeons, some of the vulgar sort will turn to Mahometans to have that liberty. There are above three thousand Pigeon-houses in Ispahan, for every man may build a Pigeon house upon his own farm, which yet is very rarely done, all the other Pigeon houses belong to the king, who draws a greater revenue from the dung than from the Pigeons; which dung, as they prepare it, serves to smook their melons."

COLUMBA TABELLARIA. *The Carrier Pigeon.*

124.—The Carrier is larger in size than most of the common sorts of Pigeons: I measured one the other day, whose length from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail was fifteen inches; this, though not one of the largest, weighed near twenty ounces. Their flesh is naturally firm, and their feathers close, when they stand erect upon their legs, their necks being usually long, there appears in them a wonderful symmetry of shape beyond other Pigeons, which are generally crowded on heaps.

125.—The upper chap of the bill is half covered from the head, with a naked, white, tuberos, furfuraceous flesh, which projects or hangs over both its sides on the upper part nearest the head, and ends in a point about the middle of the bill; this is called the wattle, and is sometimes joined by two small excrescences of the same kind on each side of the under chap.

126.—This flesh is in some carriers more inclinable to a blackish colour, which is generally the more valued.

127.—The eyes, whose iris, or circle round the black pupil, is generally of the colour of a reddish gravel, (*) are equally surrounded with the same sort of furfuraceous matter, for about the breadth of a shilling; this is generally thin when it spreads wide. and is most valued, yet when the flesh round the eye is thick and broad it shows the carriers to be of a good blood that will breed very stout ones.

128.—This bird is often esteemed, by the gentlemen of the Fancy, as the King of Pigeons, on the account of its beauty and great sagacity; for which reason Mr. Hickman, a distiller in Bishopsgate-street (not of the family of the lying Hickmans) when living, always kept a silver hatchet and block, on which he decently chopped off their heads, alledging, that being of the blood royal, they ought not to die after the same manner as the vulgar herd.

129.—A carrier is generally reckoned to have twelve properties, viz.

Three in the beak.
Three in the wattle.
Three in the head.
Three in the eye.

* 127.—MAYOR, p. 86. "But should be a fiery red." GIRTIN, p. 61. "Of a red brick-dust color."

130.—To begin therefore with the first, the properties of the beak are to be long, strait, and thick.

131.—As to its length, an inch and a half is reckoned a long beak, though there are very good carriers that are found not to exceed an inch and a quarter.

132.—The straitness of the beak adds a wonderful beauty to its length, and if otherwise it is said to be hook-beaked, and is not so much esteemed.

133.—The thickness of the beak is likewise a very great commendation, and if it fails in this point it is said to be spindle beaked, which diminishes something of its value.

134.—The next three properties are those of the wattle, which ought to be broad across the beak; short from the head towards the apex, or point of the bill, and tilting forwards from the head; for if otherwise it is said to be pegg-wattled, which is very much disesteemed; and, therefore, some people (*) to impose upon mankind, and enhance the price of an indifferent bird, have artificially raised the hinder part of the wattle, filled it up with cork, and wired it in with fine wire, in such a manner as not to be easily perceptible, especially to gentlemen who are not adepts in the Fancy.

135.—We come now to consider the properties of the head, which are its length, its narrowness, and its flatness. When a Carrier has a long, narrow head, and a very flat scull (†), it is much admired, and if otherwise it is said to be barrel headed.

136.—The last three properties are those of the eye, which ought to be broad, round, and of an equal thickness; for if one part of the eye be thinner than the rest, it's said to be pinch-eyed, which is deemed a very great imperfection; whereas if it has the contrary properties, it is said to have a rose-eye which is very valuable.

137.—To these, some add the distance, which is between the hinder part of the wattle, and the edge of the eye; but I cannot allow this to be a property, because when a Carrier comes to be three or four years old, if the eye is broad and the wattle large, they must of necessity meet: the distance therefore seems to be rather a property of the horseman, of which more in its proper place.

138.—Another distinguishing mark of a Carrier is the length and thinness of its neck, which some call a property; and indeed it must be allowed to add a very great beauty to this bird, especially considering the breadth of its chest. (‡)

131.—In MOORE'S day an inch and a half was reckoned a long beak, although at this time, there are beaks that would measure one inch and three quarters, and some few two inches; it is infinitely better to have a beak one inch and a half in a right position, possessing the properties, straight and thick, than have a beak upon which tricks have been played when young and coaxed to the length of two inches, and spindle beaked. The experienced Fanciers are aware how some measure, as I said before. Position, thickness, and straitness of the beak causes the admiration of Fanciers; if you refer to the portrait of the Carrier accompanying this work, you will find the beak two inches full, and if measured from the back of the head to the end of the beak, nearly three inches, understanding that in some parts of the country they measure in this way.

133.—GIRTIN, p. 63. Beak a black color.

* 134.—MAYOR, p. 82. "To impose upon the ignorant."

† 135.—Ibid, p. 82. "With a hollow impression or dent in the middle."

‡ 138.—MAYOR, p. 83. "The broader the chest the better, for which reason the head should incline backward, which shews it more advantageously."

139.—Its feather is chiefly black or dun, though there are likewise blues, whites, and peds of each feather, but the black and dun answer best the foregoing properties; yet the blues, and blue peds are generally esteemed for their scarcity, though they will not usually come up to the properties of the foregoing feathers.*

140.—The original of these Pigeons came from Bazora, in Persia, being sometimes brought by shipping, and sometimes in the caravans; hence by some ignorant people they are called buffories.

141.—This city is situate about two miles distant from a river called Xat Arab, which is formed by the meeting of the two great rivers, Tygris and Euphrates; near this place is a small house, like a hermitage, dedicated to Iza ben Mariam, that is, Jesus the son of Mary; in passing which place, the Mahometans themselves very devoutly offer up their prayers: there is likewise a considerable quantity of land, whose revenues belong to this chapel.

142.—We come now to give an account of the name which is given to this pigeon, and it is called a Carrier, because it is frequently made use of to carry a letter from one place to another. And such is the admirable cunning, or sagacity of this bird, that though you carry them hood-winked, twenty or thirty miles, nay I have known them to be carried threescore or a hundred, and there turned loose, (*) they will immediately hasten to the place where they were bred. The Dutch call this pigeon bagadat, I suppose, from a corruption of the name of the city Bagdat,

139.—According to Mr. MOORE, (Paragraph 129,) a Carrier is reckoned to have twelve properties, &c. and all in that small portion of the bird—the Head; allowing no property to test the Carrier by that standard, laid down with regard to the wonderful symmetry and elegance of shape; although in former times it was called by the Gentlemen of the Fancy “the King of Pigeons,” for its elegance and sagacity. An umpire, unequal to the office he was filling, might award the prize from a general appearance of the bird (its elegance and symmetry of shape) although it was not laid down as one out of the twelve properties to test the Carrier by, and I think we are greatly indebted for the judicious remarks of MAYOR. After all, my brother Fanciers, I will be candid, and inform you, that I do not believe the Carrier to be an original bird, but bred up to the highest possible pitch, by the Fancier, from the Horseman—when at this high pitch or standard then it was called a Carrier, nor is it possible to prevent the degeneration by any art whatever, which I shall endeavour to prove when I come to the Horseman.

* 139.—MAYOR, p. 84. But, in my opinion, the above twelve properties would be better, and not so liable to be confused, if they were reduced to five properties, viz.

- 1st. The Beak.
- 2nd. The Wattle.
- 3rd. The Head.
- 4th. The Eye.
- 5th. Length and thinness of neck, and length of body.

But as the gentlemen of that Fancy have not yet taken upon them to fix a proper standard, as has been done for the Almond Tumbler and the Pouter, the above is submitted to their consideration. The reducing the twelve properties to five, simplifies, and is generally adopted by the Gentlemen of the Fancy, who are appointed to the office of Umpires.

* 142.—GIRTIN, p. 65. The winged messenger no sooner finds itself at large, than its love for its native home influences all its motions. It immediately flies up into

which was formerly old Babylon which Nimrod built, because they judge this pigeon in its way from Bazora to be brought through that city.

143.—In Turkey they call them Bagatins or Couriers, and the Turks and Persians make a common practice of breeding this sort of Pigeons in their Seraglios, where there is one, whose business it is to feed and train these birds, for the use afterwards designed, which they do in this manner: when a young one flies very hard at home, and is come to its full strength, they carry it in a basket, or otherwise, about half a mile from home, and there they turn it out; after this they will carry it a mile, then two, four, eight, ten, twenty and so on, till at length they will return from the farthest parts of the kingdom. This practice is of admirable use; for every Bashaw has generally a basket full of these Pigeons sent him from the grand Seraglio, and in case of any insurrection or other emergent occasion, he braces a letter under the wings of a pigeon, whereby its flight is not in the least incommoded, and immediately turns it loose, but for fear of their being shot, or struck by a hawk, they generally dispatch five or six; so that by this means, dispatches are sent in a more safe and speedy method, than could possibly be otherwise contrived.

144.—N.B. If a Pigeon be not practised when young, the best of them will fly but very indifferently, and may very possibly be lost.

145.—LITHGOW in his travels gives the following remarkable account: after having told us of pigeons, that in forty eight hours, would carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days journey, he proceeds thus; "The city Ptolemais was besieged by the French and Venetian armies, and was ready to fall

the clouds to an almost imperceptible height, and then, with great certainty and exactness, darts itself, by some unknown intuitive principle towards its native spot, which is frequently at the distance of many miles, bringing its message to the person to whom it is directed. By what visible means they discover the place, or by what compass they are conducted in the right way, is equally mysterious and unknown; but it has been proved, by experiment, that they will perform a journey of forty miles, in the space of one hour and a half; which is a degree of dispatch three times sooner than the swiftest four-footed animal can possibly perform.

GIRTIN, p. 66. Extraordinary attention was formerly paid to the training of these Pigeons, in order to be sent from governors in a besieged city, to generals that were coming to succour it; from princes to their subjects, with the news of some important transaction.

143.—GIRTIN, p. 67. In the East, they formerly kept relays of these Pigeons in constant readiness to carry expresses to all parts of the country. When the governor of Dalmatia heard the news of the death of Orillo, he let fly a Pigeon, under whose wing he had fastened a letter; this fled to Cairo, from whence a second was dispatched to another place, as was customary, so the death of Orillo was made known to all Egypt, in the space of a few hours; but the simple use of them was known in very early times: When Modena was besieged, Brutus within the walls, kept an uninterrupted correspondence with Hirtius without, and this by the assistance of Pigeons, setting at nought every stratagem of the besieger, Anthony, to stop these winged couriers. In the times of the Crusades there are many instances of these birds being made useful in the service of war. Tasso relates one during the siege of Jerusalem; and, Joinville another, during the crusade of St. Louis.

into their bands, when the soldiers beheld a pigeon flying over them to the city, who thereupon set up so sudden and so great a shout, that down fell the poor airy post with her letter, which being read, was found to contain, that the Sultan was coming towards them with an army sufficient to raise the seige, and would be with them in three days; the Christians having learnt this, sent away the Pigeon with another letter, to this effect; that they should see to their safety, for that the Sultan had such other important affairs, as rendered it impossible that he should come to their relief. Upon the reception of this letter the city was immediately surrendered to the Christians; upon the third day, the Sultan arrived according to his promise, but perceiving how matters went, returned again with his army."

146.—That passage of making the Pigeon fall to the ground by the shout of the soldiers, seems a little too much to savour of Romish superstition; for it appears a little unphilosophical, to imagine that the air could be so far broke by a shout, as to render the strong pinions of so swift a bird useless.

147.—OVID likewise, in his Book of Metamorphoses, tells us that Taurosthenes, by a Pigeon stained with purple, gave notice of his victory at the Olympic games, the very same day on which he gained it, to his father at Ægina.

148.—WILLOUGHBY also in his Ornithology, and with that I shall conclude the account of this bird, produces the example of the ancients in making use of Pigeons for the conveyance of letters; thus Hiritius and Brutus at the siege of Modena, by means of Pigeons held a mutual correspondence with each other.

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINOR. *The Horseman.*

149.—This Pigeon in shape and make very much resembles the Carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz. Somewhat less in body, shorter necked, the protuberent flesh upon the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye, so that there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle and the eye, in this Pigeon than in the Carrier. They are generally more inclined to be barrel-headed and their eye somewhat pinched.

150.—It is to this day a matter of dispute, whether this be an original Pigeon: or whether it be not a bastard strain, bred between a Carrier and a Tumbler, or a Carrier and a Powter, and so bred over again from a Carrier, and the oftener it is thus bred, the stouter the horseman becomes.

150.—If it was a matter of dispute in the year 1735, (it is more so now, in the year 1852.) It is quite clear that none of us are able to recollect whether this be an original bird or not, nevertheless if we have brains, as I said in a former part of this work, let us endeavour to exercise them; after reading MOORE, and comparing MAYOR and GIRTIN'S Work to MOORE'S they are both the same, only altering a few words, which is the same as regards the sense, or differently placing the paragraphs; now as none of us can recollect, and as it was a matter of dispute one hundred and seventeen years ago, we have the same right to exercise our judgment (however little it may be) as they had in the year 1735, when this book was printed, and from which this subject under consideration is taken. I shall endeavour to tread in the footsteps of that humble and modest Fancier, who I style the pre-eminent of Fanciers—the late Mr. JOHN MOORE, who repeatedly in his work expressed his wish that the work had been brought out by more able pens, and hoped it would provoke others with more skill and abilities to follow in the tract which he had only pointed out, to which I gave my hearty Amen. (Query.) Do not for a moment suppose that I consider myself equal to the task; but as a

humble unassuming Fancier, like Moore, I tell you boldly and fearlessly, without evasion or equivocation that the Horseman is an Original Bird. That is my opinion, I throw down the gauntlet to provoke others to take it up; some of you may say, that, although written in such humble language, you should give us the why or the wherefore it is your opinion, I will endeavour to do so. All the Authors state, the Horseman is a hybrid, in shape and make very much resembles the Carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz. less in body, shorter necked, the wattle on the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye; there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle and the eye, in this Pigeon, than in the Carrier. They are more inclined to be barrel-headed, and their eye somewhat pinched. To sum up this account, although it comes the nearest to a Carrier than any other Pigeon, altogether less than any of its properties (save thickness of neck and the want of elegance). I put it to the experienced Carrier Fancier, whether this bird, taking all its properties into consideration, is a Carrier in miniature. Certainly not; how comes it to be so short and thick-necked and broad-headed? there are Horseman of all manner of feathers, and peds; but Carriers are chiefly blacks and duns. I have often asked Fanciers how they distinguished between a Carrier and a Horseman, but they have thought it too delicate a question to answer. I have, in conversation with some of the most experienced Fanciers heard them say, that if in breeding from a pair of Horseman they throw and breed an extraordinary bird, they call it a Carrier; and, if on the contrary, they breed from an extraordinary pair of Carriers, and they breed plain birds, then they are called Horseman, and I believe this to be near the mark.

I know two Gentlemen, stout Bird Fanciers (this is the term generally made use of by the Fanciers of Carriers and Horseman); one gentleman said he had nothing but Carriers, the other said he had nothing but Horseman; I admired the Horseman of the one, better than the Carrier of the other, which only proves, "What is there in a name?" It would appear contradictory if we come to the feather, for if Carriers breed Horseman, and Horseman Carriers, how comes it to pass that we have so few Carriers, but are principally blacks and duns, for we have Horseman of all colours; and I am sensible we have Carriers also, but very few, comparatively speaking. In Horseman, the blue and pied are most noted to be genuine and good, Then how comes it to pass that we have so few blue and blue-pied Carriers, unless the blacks and duns answer best to breed up to? It was so in 1735, and is so now, the blacks and duns having been so bred together. If you were to breed from two blacks, or two duns, or from a black and a dun, who would take to say what the colour of their young would be, very likely a black and a dun in every nest, or contrary to the colour of the parent bird from which they are bred; yet being a black and dun, simply, for ought I know, the blacks and duns, having been bred together hundreds of years back as they are now, I have no doubt that if the blues had been bred up, as the blacks and duns have been, we should have had as elegant for all properties, which so characterises the Carrier for that elegance and wonderful symmetry of shape beyond other Pigeons. Whereas, the Horseman appears a short, dumpy, thick necked, broad headed bird. How did it obtain that broad head? Never from the Dragon,

Tumbler, or the Pouter, is my opinion; but that the Horseman is the original bird, and the Carrier is not. Do you suppose for a moment, that the Carriers of the East, was like the engraving of the Carrier that accompanies this Work? (see) It is my opinion that it was no more like it, than the Antwerp Carrier is like it; but who knows what the spirited experienced English Fancier will bring the Antwerp Carrier to, in the next fifty years. I have seen Dragons that appeared to come nearer in shape and symmetry to the Carrier, than some Horseman (but with less wattle) appearing more like a Carrier in miniature. I stated it to be my opinion that the Horseman was the original bird, and not the Carrier, I will endeavour to prove my assertion; imagine to yourself, an old and experienced Fancier, of forty years standing, possessing the acknowledged best strain of Carriers, to die, and all he possessed willed over to his nearest and only relation, a nephew, and among other things, this truly beautiful strain of Carriers comes into his possession, and being grateful for what he has received, is determined not to part with this strain of Carriers, knowing the immense pains, and the delight his uncle took in them (although a novice himself.) I will simply put the question to the experienced Carrier Fancier, How many years he will give me before this remarkable fine strain of Carriers degenerate into the original Horseman? You may put a question to me, and ask me whether they would degenerate more, by lowering from the Horseman to the Dragon, to which I should certainly answer, No; believing the Horseman to be the original bird, and would not sink below its nature. Again, to try to prove my assertion, I believe the Carrier bred up to the standard, was, and is bred up by the most experienced Fanciers, from observation and reflection, and a thorough knowledge of these birds; nevertheless, he has to exercise all he knows, by counteraction and art, assisted by Nature, who sports and freaks at times, and produces a wonderful and extraordinary Carrier. Now having this Carrier, and selecting the very best Carrier from your aviary or loft, I simply put the question to the most experienced Carrier Fanciers, (it is useless to put it to any one else, you might as well put it to Aldgate pump), Can you depend upon their young being extraordinary Carrier birds, as they are called? who, from his experience, would answer, No! there being such a tendency in these high bred birds, to degenerate and throw back; and this is the cause why a good Fancier would rather have the cast offs, of a good strain, than an apparent good bird that he knew nothing about. It frequently happens that Fanciers are very strong, and well up with these birds, and would not take twenty guineas a pair for them, and have not parted with their best birds, and if you ask them how they are going along, or with what success they have had during the breeding season, the answer is very bad, and not bred a bird; the meaning is, not worthy to be mentioned, owing to the tendency there is to degenerate. It is equally as easy, if not more so, to breed the Carrier up from the Horseman, as to breed your short-faced Tumblers for the five properties, from the rough long-faced common flying Tumblers, having such a tendency to degenerate. Again, the same takes place with regard to the English Pouter, when bred up to the highest pitch, there being such a tendency to degenerate.

The Horseman has been a very useful bird, among Fanciers, (which no one can deny) and has aided and assisted the Fancier in bringing to perfection more Pigeons than any other.—The English Pouter or Cropper, see paragraph 161; the Pouting Horseman, paragraph 182; and the Dragon, paragraph 156, and what I have been contending for the Carrier, paragraph 124. The experienced Fancier would be able to discover the original bird, the Horseman; not the Horseman bred up to the highest possible pitch, from the selection of the two best Horseman in the aviary or loft, Nature aiding and assisting by giving a little one in; and an accidental hit would produce an extraordinary bird, then it would be called a Carrier, although the same bird bred from Horseman; neither the Hybrid Dragon, first, second, and third breed, for the oftener they are bred over to the Horseman, the stouter they become; but there appears something so particular in the character of the original Horseman, its broad head, its short thick neck, and its dumpiness, as compared to the Carrier. If we were at a Horseman or Carrier show—please yourself with which name, for, as I said elsewhere, What is there in a name?—mark the remarks you would hear; it is possible some would say, I do not know when I have seen a better show of stout birds, take them all for all. You would find a difference of opinion, some saying, I should choose that black cock, if it was a little narrower in the head, or more snake headed, with a hollow or dent in the middle, for we are inclined to think it is rather barrel headed; others would say, give me the dun hen, provided it was longer and thinner in the neck, not so short and thick, but more swan necked; others might say, that is the bird for me, provided it possessed more carriage, and not so spindle beaked, which proves the difficulty of breeding out the properties of the original marked Horseman; and it is truly astonishing to think what beautiful birds they are, when you come to consider with what difficulties the Fancier is beset, in producing the Carrier with all its elegancies, and maintaining the five properties, as laid down for the standard by the Gentlemen of the Carrier Fancy, viz.—beak, wattle, head, eye, shape, all combined in a single bird, and coming from the original bird, the Horseman.

Imagine to yourself, two Fanciers, one styling himself a Horseman Fancier and the other styling himself a Carrier Fancier, having contended for a long time as to whether the Horseman or the Carrier is the original bird, both arguing all they know as regards these birds, which is not a little, being two good Fanciers, but they cannot agree at this meeting, and take leave of each other, wishing each other luck, &c. One thinks a little country air, and being a disciple of Old Isaac desirous of seeing how his brother Bobs are going along, betakes himself to Dagenham Reach, and to his surprise meets his brother Fancier and Bob, who he had only parted with in the morning—the one went by Train, the other by Coach. They expressed their surprise and exclaimed, like Darby and Joan, who had agreed to enjoy themselves, for once, with a Duck and Green Peas. Hot! and on table; ready to begin. Knock at door! A cousin, wife, and four children drops in, and the exclamation is, “Who’d have thought of seeing You!” Neither being desirous of renewing the argument on Carriers or Horseman, but are lost in wonder and astonishment at the beauty of the scenery, and exclaim, How delightful is the

151.—The only thing that seems inclinable to favour the opinion, that they are original, is a strain of this kind brought over from Scanderoon, which will fly very great lengths and very swift; but still the answer readily occurs, that they may be bred originally the same way at Scanderoon and so transmitted to us, however non nostrum est inter vos tantas componere Lites, that is, we shan't take upon us to determine such controversies as these.

152.—There are of this kind, of all manner of feathers; but the blue and blue-pieds are most noted to be genuine and good, and if flown are very good breeders.

153.—These are one of the sorts of Pigeons that are chiefly made use of in England, for the carriage of letters, or flying of wagers; because those that are possessed of the true original Carriers, which are at present very scarce here, pay too dear, and have too great a value for them, to risk their being lost upon every trifling wager.

154.—These pigeons when regularly flown, twice on a day, that is, turned out alone and put upon wing without any others, will fly very large circumferences, so that after they have made a tour or two round your own house, they will fly four or five miles out at length and so maintain the circuit for an hour or two: this the Fanciers call going an end, and is what Daniel Moggs, who was one of the oldest Fanciers, meant, when he jocularly used to bid his pigeons maintain their length.

155.—This practice is of admirable service to them, when they come to be trained for the homing part.

scene of Rural Nature to the Philosophic eye and contemplative mind! and agree to walk together to witness what sport had attended their brother trollers; the first they enquired of had taken two jack, the second had taken two pike, and another, brother Bob, had taken two fish—a term well understood by anglers; now, here are jack, pike and fish taken, What is the difference? For argument sake, and to lay a trap for you, I will say, there is none, and that all three are the same fish. Do not be too cunning, and tell me that a pike is a year older than a jack, otherwise I shall put the question, and ask you, Are your stout birds for the first two, three, or four years Horseman, and as they grow old and become heavily wattled, then they turn into Carriers, although the same bird; which only proves that the Horseman is the original bird, and the Carrier by the art of man.

In the same paragraph (150), on the matter in dispute I find "Or" twice; and in Paragraph 151, one—"May Be;" this is not very definite to argue upon; therefore, to render it more clear, and define it to you, I had better throw in the words, Perhaps, it is possible, but rather improbable that I have thrown some light upon these words "or" and "may be;" as we are upon the subject of wonderful Flying Birds, there are people in the world who say, pigs "may" fly, others say "they are very unlikely birds." It is the last of my thoughts to dwell upon this subject. I verily believe I never should, had MAYOR and GIRTIN said a little upon it. Instead of copying MOORE only, I could not in my conscience let this, the most useful bird we have in the whole Fancy (the Horseman) pass unnoticed; considering that it has contributed in bringing to perfection—the English Pouter, the Pouting Horseman, the Dragon, and also the Carrier itself. I shall require something more in argument from those who differ from me, than mere—"Tisn't, 'Tisn't." I shall, therefore, fall in with the views of MOORE, the pre-eminent, and not trespass upon your valuable time, to determine such controversies as these.

COLUMBA TABELLARIA MINIMA. *The Dragoon.*

156.—This Pigeon is absolutely and without dispute a bastard strain, being bred originally from a Horseman to a Tumbler, and by matching their breed often to the Horseman, they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness.

157.—This Pigeon is a very good breeder, (*) and as they are somewhat less than a Horseman, are reckoned lighter, and more expeditious in their flight, for ten or

* 157.—MAYOR, p. 89. And good nurses, and are chiefly kept as feeders for raising of Pouters, Leghorn Runts, &c.

MAYOR, p. 92. The following may be depended upon as a fact, notwithstanding the appearance of incredibility, as several gentlemen now living can affirm the same, if requisite—a gentleman of my acquaintance having a small wager depending, sent a Dragon by the Stage Coach to his friend at St. Edmond's Bury, together with a note, desiring the Pigeon, two days after his arrival there, might be thrown up precisely when the town clock struck nine, in the morning, which was accordingly executed; and the Pigeon arrived in London, and flew to the sign of the Bull's Head Inn in Bishopsgate Street, into the loft, and was there shewn at half an hour past eleven o'clock the same morning on which he had been thrown up at St. Edmond's Bury, having flown seventy-two miles in two hours and a half. The wager was confirmed by a letter sent by the next post from a person at St. Edmond's Bury. I could relate several more exploits of this nature performed by Dragons, particularly of their being thrown up and returning by moon-light, &c., but the above may be thought sufficient.

I did not exactly agree with MOORE on the last subject—the Horseman—but I am determined to agree with him on the Dragon, believing what he states to be correct.

I believe there are many gentlemen living in the country, and not associating with Fanciers, who keep Pigeons, that fancy they have the finest strain of Carriers in the World; if flown, no doubt very clean, their feathers close and tight, the colours silver, yellow, or blue, with the black bar across the flight; I acknowledge all looking very beautiful as touching Dragons. Should it so happen that this fine old English gentleman, one of the olden times, gave an invite to one of his old friends, to come and spend a few days with him in the country, (but fortunately, or unfortunately, he is a good Carrier Fancier), after hearing this fine old English gentleman (in his way) describing the perfections or imperfections of the Carriers, as he pleased to call them, for want of knowing better. I ask you, as wise men, would it not be cruel if this Carrier Fancier, on a visit or spunging excursion, should endeavour to lighten the darkness of this fine old English gentleman, one of the very olden times; for instance, in the first place it would be too late in his day to make a good Carrier Fancier of him, and in the second place, it is possible there was no one in the locality to instruct him; it therefore appears to me, taking all the circumstances into consideration, to let this fine old English gentleman enjoy his own opinion.

My brother Cockneys—I have a bone to pick with you before I am done with the Dragoon, as Authors are pleased to spell it. I look upon Cockneys as the

twenty miles, but the Horseman if good, will generally out-do them at a greater length; they ought to be flown and trained like the foregoing.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA BATAVIÆ.

The Dutch Cropper.

158.—This Pigeon seems to be originally Dutch, being naturally thick, and its name is derived from a large bag, or crop of wind, which they carry under their beak, and can at pleasure either raise or depress; they are thick bodied and short, their legs are likewise thick, short, and feathered down to their feet; their crop is large but always hang low, the feathers on their thighs hang loose, whereby they are said to be flag-thighed, their legs stand wide and they seldom play upright, they are gravel-eyed, and generally very bad feeders, therefore as soon as they have fed off their soft meat it is proper to put their young ones under a pair of small Runts, Dragoons, or Powting-horsemen, which may be kept as nurses for that purpose.

159.—There are of all sorts of feathers in this pigeon, and the Dutch in breeding it take a very great care; for as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, they put their young ones under others to nurse, and then separate the old ones, placing them in different coops, and feeding them high with hemp or rape seed for a month, then turning them together; and by being very hearty and salacious, they breed pigeons with very good properties; from whence we may observe, that would mankind be alike abstemious, their progeny might be more compleat both in body and mind.

160.—These are the Pigeons that are most apt to gorge, if not kept constantly supplied with meat and water.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA ANGLICANA.

The English Powter.

161.—This Pigeon, which was first bred in England, and is therefore called the English Powter, is originally a mixed breed between a Horseman and a Cropper,

most cunning birds that fly—they appear to me to be hydrids; do not mistake me, I do not mean between a “Bull and a Jack-ass,” but bred in from shire to shire. As you have some pretence to education, be pleased to answer me the question I am about to put to you; I accuse you of nothing, Why do the Authors on Pigeons spell the Dragon with two oo, making the word Dragoon, a kind of soldier that serves indifferently either on foot or on horseback? “Walker.” In society we never call it the Dragoon, but the Dragon—Drag-un, a winged serpent, “Walker,” from which it derives its name, and while I am on this point, and, as I told you before, I wish to accuse you of nothing, answer me this question, How it comes to pass that Authors have thought fit to spell the Pouter thus—Powter? The name is derived form the word, to pout, by thrusting out. “Walker” The march of intellect being on the wing, I hope that not any Author who after follows me, will be guilty of doing that which I complain of; it may be excusable of me in bringing forward MOORE’S Work, as I am desirous it should be published letter for letter.

158.—MAYOR, p. 92. But now the Gentlemen Fanciers in England, pay very little regard to this Pigeon, since they have made it subservient to their purpose, viz. by raising from them and others, the Pouter.

and by matching their young ones over and over to the Cropper, experience teaches us, it will add a wonderful beauty to this bird, and raise in it the five following properties.

1. Length of Body.
2. Length of Legs.
3. Neatness of Crop.
4. Slenderness of Girth.
5. Beauty in Feather.

162.—1. As to the length of body, the longer they are from the Apex of the beak, to the end of the tail, the more the Pigeon is esteemed: I have seen one that measured this way near twenty inches, though seventeen or eighteen is reckoned a very good length. (•)

163.—2. The length of the leg, is the next thing to be examined in a Pouter, i. e. from the upper joint of the thigh(†) in sight, to the end of the toe nail; (‡) and in

* 162.—MAYOR, p. 94. It should have a hollow back, running off taper from the shoulders, to form a fine shape, (for if it rises on the back it is called hog-backed), and it should be small in the girth. Great caution should be observed in measuring their length of body, lest the head and tail should be pulled off, which (if I am rightly informed) was once the case, and thereby a fine bird sacrificed.

† 163. MAYOR (p. 94.) states with regard to length of leg, and in this property some of them wanting a mere trifle of seven inches and a quarter.

‡ 163.—It requires truth and honesty in measuring, besides being rather difficult, I have heard some of the best Pouter Fanciers say, it requires two to measure, provided it requires to be accurately done, and is to be done in the following way; let one hold the leg out as straight as possible, then place the blade of a pen-knife, tooth-pick, or small wedge in the upper joint of the thigh, the other taking the length from whatever may be placed in the joint, letting the rule touch and continuing it to the end of the longest toe-nail, it does not appear to me to be altogether fair, having no limits to the length of toe-nail; for if two gentlemen showed two birds for length of leg, and, fairly speaking, the length of leg was equal; yet if one in the toe-nail ran out a quarter, or half an inch more than the other; nevertheless, as the standard laid down, it counts as length of leg, although the bird would not stand any higher for it. The Pouter Fanciers may reason and say, it has as much right to count as the running out or length of beak in the Horseman or Carrier. I acknowledge this to be fair argument, and leave it to the Pouter and Carrier Fanciers to decide. I think it right in this place to inform you, that I measure only to the end of the quick, and all that is over and above consider horn; the same remarks is applicable to the short-faced Tumblers. Mr. MOORE, in the preceding Paragraph 162, as touching length of body, states, in his day, that he had seen one nearly twenty inches, and in Paragraph 163, wanting a mere trifle of seven inches; and MAYOR, p. 94, states the leg seven inches and a quarter, it therefore appears the leg is full one-third of the length of the whole body of the bird; now, for instance, if it was possible to breed a bird so long in body as twenty three inches; the leg, in the same proportion, would be eight inches. Answer me this question, Would this Pouter be able to play with a fine tail, well spread like a fan, without scraping the ground therewith, otherwise it would be awkwardness, instead of grace and elegance.

this property some pigeons have been very considerable, wanting a mere trifle of seven inches, yet the bird that produces six and a half or three quarters must be allowed to be a very good one. (*)

164.—3. The next property to be considered is the crop, which ought to be large and round especially towards the beak, filling behind the neck, so as to cover the shoulders and tie neatly off at the shoulders, and form a perfect globe.

165.—4. The smaller the girt the better, because by this means a contrast of beautiful shape is given to the whole bird.

166.—5. The last thing that is generally allowed as a property in a Powter is the Feather, (†) and indeed its plumage affords a very great variety.

167.—The Pies are most universally esteemed, and under these may be ranked, the Blue-pied, (†) the Black-pied, the Red-pied and the Yellow-pied. Each of which advance in their worth according as they answer best the foregoing properties; for instance, if the Blue-pied and Black-pied are equal in the measure of the other properties: the Black-pied will be reckoned the best Pigeon, on the account of the feather, and the Yellow-pied if equal, better than any.

168.—Before we leave this head of feathers, we must take notice how a Powter ought to be pied: and in the first place, the chop ought to be white, girt round with a shining green, intermixed with the colour with which he is pied. By the

* 163. MAYOR, p. 95. Their thighs and legs should be stout and thick, and well covered with smooth white feathers, and not thin wire legs and naked, as formerly.

165.—I cannot but help thinking that the Gentlemen of the Pouter Fancy have lost ground, as touching the girt of the Pouter; I am ready to acknowledge they have bred, if I may use the term, some tremendous large birds, but unfortunately they have bred them to weigh too much, which is the property of the Leghorn and Spanish Runt. A Pouter ought, in hand, to handle like a Tumbler, not requiring both hands, or as the old Fanciers call it, draw it through the ring of your fingers, comparatively speaking. It appears to me breeding for large birds, instead of symmetry, shape, style and elegance. Again, I am fearful that some have run from one extreme to the other; formerly the legs of the Pouter were thin, wiry, and featherless; but I have seen some whose legs were so stout that they reminded me of mill-posts, and the feathers on the legs rushed out to such an enormous extent, (instead of appearing like down, snow, or being iced), which balks the bird if it attempts to play, not having the freedom of its legs which it otherwise would, bringing to your recollections some of the old fashioned feather-legged Bantams. I would almost as soon have them somewhat thin leg, and almost naked, as to have their legs more like mill-posts—rushed and sprouted, almost preventing the bird walking. However, there is no accounting for taste, when the breeder says he greatly admires it, the smallness of girt gives such smartness to the bird.

† 166.—As regards feather, it will be “Hobson’s choice” with you, as it is with every other Fancier. I am fully sensible, as you are, how much it contributes to the admiration of the bird when beautifully feathered, as laid down by MOORE, and what a difference there is in a bird only wanting the bib, for then he is called swallow-throated.

‡ 167.—MAYOR, p. 95. The Blue Pied Pouter should be the best sky blue. Or, Powder Blue, as it is termed by the Gentlemen in the Fancy.—J. M. EATON.

chop, is meant, the front part of the crop, and this white ought by no means to go behind the neck, for then it is said to be ring-headed.

169.—2. He ought to have a bib or round patch, of the same colour with which he is pied, coming down from his under chop, and falling upon the chap, which makes it the shape of a half-moon; but if this bib be wanting he is said to be swallow-throated.

170.—3. His head, neck, and back ought to be of one uniform colour, and the tail the same, (*) and if the Pigeon be Blue-pied he ought to have two bars or streaks of black across the lower part of both wings; but if these happen to be of a brown colour, he is said to be kite barred, which is not so valuable.

171.—4. The shoulder or pinion of the wing ought to be mottled with white, lying round in the shape of a rose; this is called a rose-pinion, and is reckoned the best, though but very few arise to be compleat in this property; but if the pinion runs with a large patch of white to the outer edge of the wing, he is said to be lawn-sleeved. (†)

172.—5. His thighs ought to be clean white, though sometimes the joints of the knees will be edged round with another colour, but let it fall here, or on any other part of the thigh, he is foul thighed. (‡)

173.—6. The nine flight feathers of the wing ought to be white, otherwise he is said to be foul flighted, and if only the external feather of the wing be of the colour of the body, it is called sword flighted or sworded. (§)

* 170.—His head, neck, back, and tail ought to be one uniform colour. MAYOR and GIRTIN has the same words as MOORE; neither of the three mention—with the exception of the Yellow and the Red-pieds, then their tails should be white. It was an oversight, no doubt, and perplexed many a young Fancier, as it did me a few years ago. Looking at Pouters one night with tails, same as head, neck, and back; and another time, at yellows and reds, with white tails: Time and experience improved my eye, and matured my judgment.

† 171.—GIRTIN, p. 50. The reader is desired to take notice that lawn-sleeved, kite-barred, &c. and such like terms which frequently occur in describing these birds, are fancy terms, and made use of by Gentlemen of the Fancy only.

‡ 172.—GIRTIN, p. 51. Their legs covered with white, soft downy feathers.

§ 173.—I know a Gentleman in the Fancy, one of the best tempered men I ever knew, and it would take a great deal to put his pipe out; if in society, and speaking of the properties of the English Pouter as they ought to be—first, length of body—second, length of legs—third, neatness of crop—fourth, slenderness of girt—fifth and last, beauty in feather. If he heard a party finding fault with an English Pouter, or Pouters, possessing the four first properties in an eminent degree; it was more than flesh and blood could stand, and the only thing I ever saw that ruffled his temper; he enjoyed his opinion of the man, for I cannot call him a Fancier. Feather will be the last property you will have to bother yourself with, considering what you have to encounter with in the first four properties. There are people in the World that say “a good horse cannot be a bad colour,” and equally applies to the English Pouter; for instance, if it was possible for you, at your next Show, to take a bird as I have been describing, possessing the four first properties out of the five in an eminent degree, and although the most despicable colour in the feather, (mealy) you might inform

174.—Besides the five properties before mentioned, there is another, which though not generally allowed, will be found to be one of the best, I mean the carriage; under which I comprise the following heads.

175.—1. The crop ought to be so far filled with wind, as to shew its full extent, without bufling or being slack-winded, which are both esteemed very great faults? The Pigeon that bufls, fills his crop so full of wind, that it is thereby strained, in such a manner, that he is ready to fall backwards, because he can't readily discharge the confined air, which renders him uneasy and unwieldly, and many a good thing has, by this means, either fallen into the street, or become a prey to those fatal enemies of the Fancy, the cats. The other extreme is being slack-winded, so that he shows little or no crop, and appears not much better than an ill-shaped runt.

176.—2. The second beauty in carriage, is their playing upright, with a fine tail, well spread like a fan, without scraping the ground therewith, or tucking it between their legs; neither should they set up the feathers on their rump when they play, which is called rumping.

177.—3. The last beauty of carriage in a Powter is to stand close with his legs, without straddling, and keep the shoulders of his wing tight down to his body, and when he moves, to trip beautifully with his feet, almost upon his toes, without jumping, which is the quality of an Uploper.

178.—A Powter that would answer to all these properties, might be said to be perfect, but as absolute perfection is incompatible with anything in this world, that Pigeon that makes the nearest advances towards them, is certainly the best.

179.—Some have answered them so well, that I have known eight guineas refused for a single pigeon of this breed.

me how much handsomer it would have been if it had been a yellow-pied. You may keep your information to yourself, for I already know it; produce and show the mealy bird I have described, and you will find that you are offered many guineas for it.

MAYOR, p. 63. The above, and many other inconveniences too tedious to mention attending the Pouter, and no trouble at all (comparatively speaking) attending the other, easily accounts for the preference given to the Almond Tumbler.

MAYOR, p. 97. When Pouters are designed to be shewn, they should be previously prepared for that purpose, by keeping them from food five or six hours before the time of shewing them, otherwise they cannot so conveniently swell or get their crop up properly, to appear to advantage; and particular care must be afterwards taken to prevent the dangerous and disagreeable inconvenience of gorging themselves, for at that time they are most apt to do it, from having been kept so long empty.

MAYOR, p. 97. These Pigeons appear very noble on the outside of a house, but the better sort are never suffered to fly.

MAYOR, p. 97. There are many who have not judgment sufficient to discover the beauties and properties of the Pouter, that condemn it on account of the crop, which they say seems an incumbrance to the bird, and appears unnatural.

MAYOR, p. 100. The Fanciers of these birds, by dint of application, indefatigable industry, and great expense, have certainly bred them to a great degree towards perfection, insomuch that eighteen pairs and a half of them were sold by public

auction for ninety-two pounds, nine shillings and sixpence, as appears by a paragraph in the Daily Advertiser of Thursday, January 1st, and the day following in the Gazetteer, and London Daily Advertiser of Friday, January 2nd, 1761, which for the greater satisfaction of the reader, I shall here transcribe. On Monday evening last, at the sale of Pouting Pigeons, at Mr. HAY's, The French Horn, in Beach Lane, consisting of eighteen pairs and a half of Pigeons; they were sold as follows :

		£	s.	d.
MAYOR, p. 101.	Lot 1. One pair	2	12	6
	„ 2. Ditto	2	7	0
	„ 3. Ditto	2	0	0
	„ 4. Ditto.....	1	17	0
	„ 5. Ditto.....	2	12	6
	„ 6. Ditto.....	3	5	0
	„ 7. Ditto.....	3	13	6
	„ 8. Ditto.....	4	7	0
	„ 9. Ditto.....	4	6	0
	„ 10. Ditto.....	3	10	0
	„ 11. Ditto.....	3	16	0
	„ 12. Ditto.....	5	2	0
	„ 13. Ditto.....	4	1	0
	„ 14. Ditto.....	8	0	0
	„ 15. Ditto.....	13	6	0
	„ 16. Ditto.....	16	16	0
	„ 17. Ditto.....	4	10	0
	„ 18. A Hen only.....	5	5	0
	„ 19. One pair	1	3	0
Total		£92	9	6

MAYOR, p. 102. He says, "As I was present at the above sale, so I had an opportunity of examining the birds, some of which were very indifferent ones, and some of them very capital ones indeed—lots 14, 15, 16, and 18; to my knowledge, two pairs of which were afterwards sold for thirty-six Guineas, by private contract.

MAYOR, in continuation, the Almond Tumblers (at the time these Pigeons were sold) were not arrived at one half of the perfection that they are at this time, and it is the opinion of many, that were the same number of Almond Tumblers to be sold now, they would bear a price equal, if not superior, to the above.

MAYOR, p. 59. The Pouter is introduced in MAYOR's Work among the Almond Tumbler; as he says, "purposely to shew the difference of trouble, time, and inconvenience, between breeding them and the Almond Tumblers." The Pouter was formerly much valued, as well as the Carrier, and seemed at one time to engross the principal part of the Fanciers; but of late, numbers who were very staunch in the Pouter Fancy, have, with myself, relinquished that, and become

fond of the Almond Tumbler; and I make no doubt but many more will soon be tired, and follow my example; for when we consider the trouble that attends the breeding and raising of young Pouters, (exclusive of the extra expense), compared with that of the Almond Tumbler, it is not in the least to be wondered at, for the Pouter requires an infinite deal of attention, it being necessary to keep them separately all the winter season; that is to say, every single bird, cocks as well as hens, in a separate pen or coop, each of which must be furnished with meat and water, and should be lofty and spacious, as, otherwise, they would contract an habit of stooping, which is an imperfection, and should by all means be prevented. Then having (in the spring) matched or paired them, you must be provided with at least two pairs of Dragons, to every pair of Pouters, for nurses or feeders, which must be kept in a separate loft from the Pouters, otherwise they would bastardize, and spoil the breed. Pouters are never suffered, by those who are curious, to hatch their own eggs, they being bad feeders, and would often starve their young ones. When the Pouter has laid her egg, it must be shifted under a Dragon, that has likewise laid, nearly about the same time, and that of the Dragon be placed under the Pouter, exchanging the one with the other, it being necessary the Pouter should have an egg, or eggs, to sit on, to prevent her laying again too soon, which would weaken, and in a short time kill her; likewise, the inconveniency attending them when gorged, by putting them in a stocking, as mentioned under the head of distempers (first by Mr. MOORE—see Paragraph 84, 85.) Again, should a Fancier begin with half a dozen pair of Pouters, he would, in a short time, be under a necessity of purchasing more, or exchange (perhaps his best birds) for worse, in order to cross the strain, for should he (as the term is) breed them in and in, which is matching father and daughter, or brother and sister, or any other way incestuously together, the breed would degenerate, and not be worth sixpence; whereas, the same number of Almond Tumblers would inevitably stock him for life, for the breeding of Tumblers in and in, would consequently breed them smaller, which is a perfection in them, and they require no attendance while breeding, provided you supply them with meat and water, and throw them a little straw, and do not (like the Pouter) require time to be lavished upon them to make them familiar. Experience teaches us that were Tumblers to be kept in separate pens, as the Pouters are, they would show in the same manner, and be equally as familiar as the Pouter, for the Pouter should be almost constantly attended and talked to, during the Winter season, in a phrase peculiar to that Fancy, viz.—hua! hua! stroking them down the back, and clacking to them as to chickens, otherwise they would lose their familiarity, which is one of their greatest beauties, and is termed shewing, and would make the finest of them appear despicable, which made a facetious gentleman of my acquaintance say, “that Pouters were a fancy more particularly adapted to Weavers, Cobblers, and the like kind of trades only, that worked in the same room where they were kept, that the owners might have an opportunity of conversing with them, at the same time they were earning their subsistence.” Though I must allow of the propriety of the above observation, I cannot help thinking it rather severe than otherwise, for certainly every gentlemen has an undoubted right to please himself with the fancy he most delights in.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA LUTETIÆ VEL PARISIORUM.

The Parisian Powter.

180.—This Pigeon was originally bred at Paris (*) and from thence brought to Brussels, whence it was transmitted to us; it has all the nature of a Powter, but is

179.—GIRTIN, p. 52. The Pouter that approaches nearest all these properties is a very valuable bird, and some Fanciers, by a patient perseverance and great expence, have bred these birds so near the standard prescribed as to sell them for twenty guineas a pair.

With regard to the Portrait of the English Pouter that will accompany this Work, I have not seen, being in the hands of my brother Fancier, Mr. DEAN WOLSTENHOLME, the Animal Artist and Engraver. I am not aware that I could have employed any one so competent, he being a first-rate Fancier, and having given universal satisfaction as regards the Portrait of my Almond Tumbler. Should it be a little overdrawn, which I sincerely hope it will, accuse me and not him, owing to my desire to give you a good copy to breed up to; not so much like the English Pouter of the present day, but what it ought to be; and this idea brings to mind near fifty years ago, of a short argument I had with a very one-sided arguer, although very powerful, extremely forcible, and drove his arguments home. It happened on this wise, after having got through my pot-hooks and hangers, and on a little farther, my old and much respected schoolmaster called me to his study, presented me with a set of engraved copies, instructed me how to write them into my writing book; as well executed as they were, it nearly broke my poor little heart, I was quite willing to do it, but seeing the impossibility, a lucky thought struck me, and being a quick boy, and grateful for the pains he had taken with me, causing me to be so bright in so short a time. In my innocence, I asked him if he could write like it himself; although he had a study, I question very much whether he ever studied Blackstone or Coke, for he took the law into his own hands, which is contrary to law, and gave me a round dozen. I never particularly afterwards argued the cause with him, having once felt that he had the strength of the law on his side. I never brought an action against him, for taking the law into his own hands. I may have gained something from this, and it was that which caused me to write such a beautiful hand. To return to the Pouter that will accompany this Work, which I stated I hoped would be over drawn, by way of a copy for you to breed up to, I have thought fit, in colour, to choose the blue-pied, as shewing off the greatest variety of feather. Read from Paragraph 168, to Paragraph 175. I cannot help thinking that if four pied English Pouters was placed before me, and all of equal properties—the blue-pied, the black-pied, the red-pied, and the yellow-pied—and I was allowed to make choice of one of these Pouters, provided the blue pied was a light bright sky, or powder blue, like some of the owl Pigeons, with beautiful black bars across the wings, &c., but what I should choose the blue-pied, owing to the variety of feather in the blue-pied, and its beautiful black bars across the flight, which I am so great an admirer of, although I am fully sensible that the black-pied, red-pied, and yellow-pied, rank before it.

* 180.—MAYOR p. 103. This bird is vulgarly called the Parazence Pouter.

generally long cropped and not very large, it is short bodied, short legged and thick in the girth; what is chiefly admired in this bird, is its feather, which is indeed very beautiful and peculiar only to itself, resembling a fine piece of Irish stitch, being chequered with various colours in every feather, except the flight which is white; the more red it has intermixed with the other colours, the more valuable it is: Some are gravel-eyed, and some bull-eyed, but it is equally indifferent which eye it has.

COLUMBA GUTTUROSA SALIENS. *The Uploper.*

181.—The Uploper is a Pigeon bred originally in Holland, its make and shape agrees in every respect with the English Pouter, only it is smaller in every property. Its crop is very round, in which it generally buries its bill; its legs are very small and slender, and its toes are short and close together, on which it treads so nicely, that when moving, you may put anything under the ball of its foot; it is close thighed, plays very upright, and when it approaches the hen, generally leaps to her, with its tail spread, which is the reason the name is given to it, from the Dutch word Uplopen, which signifies to leap up. These pigeons are generally all blue, white, or black, though I will not assert that there are no peds of this species. There are but very few of them in England, and I have been informed that in Holland they have asked five and twenty guineas for a single pair of them.*

COLUMBA TABELLARIA GUTTUROSA.

The Pouting Horseman.

182.—This Pigeon is a bastard strain between the Cropper and the Horseman, and according to the number of times that their young ones are bred over from the Cropper, they are called first, second or third bred; and the oftener they are bred over, the larger their crop proves. The reason of breeding these Pigeons is to improve the strain of the Pouters, by making them close thighed, though it is apt to make them rump, from the Horseman's blood. (†) They are a very merry Pigeon upon a house, and by often dashing off are good to pitch stray Pigeons, that are at loss to find their own home; (‡) they breed often and are good nurses, generally feeding their young ones well. I have known these Pigeons to be six inches and six and a half in legs; they are a hearty Pigeon and, give them but meat and water, need very little other attendance. Some of them will home ten or twenty miles. (§)

* 181.—MAYOR, p. 105. The reason that they do not encourage the breed of them here, I should imagine is, having brought the English Pouter to such perfection, that, in fact, at this time, there is no comparison to be made between them; though it has been reported, that in Holland they have asked twenty-five guineas for a single pair of Uplopers, which I must confess I want faith to credit.

† 182.—MAYOR, p. 106. But having now brought the strain of the Pouters to so high perfection, that practice is disused.

‡ MAYOR, p. 106. Which gives great satisfaction to those gentlemen who delight in the Flying Fancy.

§ There cannot, I think, be a doubt among Fanciers that the Pouting Horseman is a hybrid, between the Cropper and the Horseman, coming nearer in appearance to an English Pouter in miniature, than a Horseman does to a Carrier in miniature, as I observed in a former part of this work. At the sale of Bantams Pigeons belonging to the late celebrated and spirited Fancier, Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT, I was

astonished to see the English Pouters in miniature, possessing the five properties of the English Pouter, viz. 1st.—Length and shape of body ; 2nd.—Length of legs ; 3rd.—Crop ; 4th.—Feather ; 5th.—Shape or carriage. It is the sagacity of the Horseman that enables it to find its way home, twenty miles or upwards, which proves they are good flyers, provided they are light in body and small in girth, (to use the old Fanciers' term, of passing them through the ring of your finger, comparatively speaking). I have seen some of these light-bodied Pouting Horseman, that appeared to me to fly as light as Tumblers, and when flying with the Tumblers, their round globular crops, well filled and up, has a very pleasing effect, owing to the contrast of the Tumblers. With regard to dashing off, they are not only a merry, but a spirited Pigeon, and not only spirited but graceful in the extreme ; I would rather see an elegant shape, small or narrow girth Pouting Horseman, six and a half inches in the leg, (think of this, Gentlemen of the Pouting Fancy !) than an English Pouter, even if it would measure seven and a half inches. A large English Pouter, with thick girth and hog-backed. Style is a grand thing, and the Pouting Horseman is the English Pouter, retaining all its properties.

The large and noble English Pouter is like unto the large and fine old English gentleman, one of the olden times ; the large fine English Pouter shews only by instinct, not determined by reason or deliberation, while the fine large English gentleman propelled by deliberation or reason to do his duty ; for instance, if the late Iron Duke of Wellington opened a Ball, with our most gracious Sovereign in the Minuet de la Cour, or the Gavotte de Vestris, and knowing whatever was done ought to be done well, therefore, if dancing, it ought to be done well. As a man of the World, he knew the common dancers at the Opera-house could cut six, he was fully sensible that having the honour to dance with our Sovereign Lady, the Queen, he had to shew off, and cut sixteen, like the Tumbler Pigeon in tumbling, without losing ground or time, although between eighty and ninety years of age, almost too much for flesh and blood to contemplate ; but he was such a man for duty, either towards his Sovereign or her subjects. I cannot help thinking there is a bearing or affinity not unlike in the fine large English Pouter, especially the cocks, and the fine large English gentleman, that their size and weight is an incumbrance to them both alike, in shewing their agility. I am aware of the epidemic that fine large English gentleman laboured under, of having constitutions that will bear a great deal of ease, which reminds me of some of the greatest vocalists we ever had, who show off on the stage more like elephants than actors. It is very different with the actresses, they show off, appearing to take great delight in showing off, and would appear to me that some of them had taken private lessons from the elegant formed and graceful English Pouter hen. You must make allowance for fashion, for, at this time, it is straight down from top to bottom alike, or as much shape as there is in a sack of saw-dust. They very much resemble each other in another point, being matched up too soon, consequently spoiled. You may ask me whether we have not had some fine English gentlemen, who have shown off, to which I answer, Yes ; but have only had, one Nelson, one Peel, and one Wellington,

who have shown off to the utmost, to an admiring and grateful Nation. These are the exceptions to the rule, and not the rule, the same is equally applicable to the large English Pouters. How often does it happen at a grand show of these remarkable fine large English Pouters, that after having been previously prepared for showing, that is separating each cock and hen, and not allowing them to see a Pigeon, and show well in their own pens; but when put into the show-pen a male bird, expecting he will show, it stretches out its head and neck, apparently taking a sight of all the Fanciers in the room, and almost as much as to say to some of them—you owe me something; some of them may show to a certain extent, but not to the extent the Fanciers could have desired. To a certain extent, I think these fine large male English Pouters labour under the same epidemic that the fine large English gentlemen does, viz.—that their size and weight is an incumbrance to them, and the cause producing the effect alike in the large gentleman or the large Pigeon—that of a constitution that will bear much ease. I said it was very different with the females showing off; at this part you might be desirous of putting a question to me, I will answer twenty if I consider them fair questions. Then do you consider the females more audacious and wicked than the males? I tell you I do not consider this a fair question, and beg leave most respectfully to decline answering it, at the same time you can draw your inference, recollecting that you have no right to assume anything.

It is very disheartening to the Gentlemen Fanciers of the English Pouter when this takes place, after forwarding their birds often some miles, &c. to give their brother Fanciers a treat, as it was supposed; but it does not always turn out to be so, owing to their not shewing, as it is called; nevertheless, it often proves a treat, to see what length of body and shape they have, length in leg, and beautiful in feather. It is otherwise with the light (not heavy) merry-splrited Pouting Horseman cock, when put into the show pen, always up and ready for his work, not long in stripping himself, putting himself in beautiful attitude, and suiting the action to the word display that fine action of showing which is so well understood by the Gentlemen of the Fancy; giving infinite satisfaction, with regard to their being a merry Pigeon upon the top of a house, and by often dashing off, are good to pitch stray Pigeons that are at loss to find their home. Allow me here, by way of bringing it to a close, to mention, that when I was a very little boy, and as I suppose a good little boy, (as is the custom to interpret favourably of children; for it is only when we are children of a larger growth that we kick over the traces,) fifty years ago, and scarcely could walk, I had that propensity for birds, that whenever I had a halfpenny given me, I would go on all-fours up the stairs to one Jemmy Gillham, a bird-catcher, who lived next floor to the skies, and lay out my all with this merchant bird-catcher—that amounted to a halfpenny, for which I obtained a bird; how I got down with a bird in hand at this time perplexes me, for I can recollect I went up on all-fours, as I said before, to the next floor to the skies—never recollect falling down, but recollect when down, and coming into the light, the bird, I suppose some hard-billed bird—hen sparrow, green bird, or chaffinch—gave me a severe peck, I let it go and then had a good roar; this Jemmy

Gillham, although only a bird-catcher, had his heart in the right place. He knew me and my parents, for he did not live far from us—brought me another bird and told me to hold it tight; I took his advice, being determined it should not get its head round to peck me, I was no better off with regard to having a singing bird when I got it home, than with the bird that pecked me and flew away; for in following his advice, in holding it tight, I choaked it! My kind and affectionate Mother seeing the trouble I was in, besides being bankrupt, (like all other mothers, hangs to boys, while the fathers stick to the girls—Very natural!) sent ~~the~~ servant with a cage and obtained a bird for me; my broken heart began to mend, for I was astonished to hear how plain it could say or speak, Pink! Pink! Pink! I was acquainted with him up to the time of his death, which was between forty and fifty years; He was a worthy old man, and there was not a vice in him, although a humble bird-catcher. There was a highly respectable Bird and Pigeon Dealer, of the name of Nathaniel Preston, corner of Featherstone Street, City Road—it was proverbial of him that he would use a child or boy as well as the most experienced Fancier—who would at times favor this bird-catcher, who had a very pretty flight of Black Beards, &c., and say, “Jemmy, try this Squeeker, for I entertain a high opinion of it.” Amongst them was a blue-pied Pouting Horseman cock, one of the most splendid birds that ever I saw, that was as good as a little fortune to him, and fly equal to any of his Tumblers, at the season of the year when bird-catching was bad. He would sell off all his Pigeons except this blue Pouting Horseman cock and a black-bearded cock, (his other black-beards he sold knew a thing or two, he used to say they would do forty miles), was as good as a little fortune to him, for he would generally look two or three times a day to see what stray hens the cocks had brought in, and thought it a bad day’s work if they did not bring in one a piece; for as soon as he perceived a strange one, he took it away, and sold it, and turned them out to look for others. I never witnessed such a flying Pouting Horseman as this, it flew more like a hawk than a Pigeon, besides being such a bird for dashing off. It was unfortunately shot by a publican, who had been a gamekeeper, and I believe was the cause of nearly ruining the poor old bird-catcher.

I have, this week, bought two pretty little blue Pouting Horseman cocks, I am informed they come from Norwich. I am given to understand they fly tremendously with very large crops. I am only surprised that such little birds should have such large crops. I have not bought them with the idea of stray catching; having so many feeders, I should not know a stray Pigeon in the loft, unless a marked, or superior Pigeon, my lofts being always open they can come in and go out as they like. I have matched these two little Pouting Horseman cocks to two of my best high-flying Tumbler hens, for the purpose of taking them up into the elements, for I think they look very well in flight with the tumblers; I care nothing about their young, and if they do not fly well, when let out, they will make room for others that will.

The Gentlemen Fanciers of the English Pouter, may assume that I admire the smaller Pouting Horseman, to the larger English Pouter. I warned you in a former part of this Work, not to assume anything, for the contrary is the fact;

COLUMBA REVOLVENS. *The Tumbler.*

183.—This bird is so called, from an innate faculty peculiar to this species, which is their tumbling in the air, and which they effect by throwing themselves over backward, after the same manner that the most expert artists in tumbling perform what they call the back-spring. (*)

I never have, and never shall advise the young and inexperienced Fancier to attempt to breed a second-rate bird, while he has the opportunity to breed a first-rate bird, therefore, I shall not advise him to breed the Pouting Horseman, while he has the opportunity to attempt to breed the English Pouter, any more than I shall advise him to breed a Skinum, Dragon, or Horseman, while he has the opportunity to attempt to breed a Carrier, for degeneracy will do that, in spite of the efforts of the most experienced Fanciers; but I am desirous that you should breed the English Pouter with more style and grace, with a hollow back, smaller in the girth, stout legs, but not like mill-posts, soft downy or snow-like feather legs, but not rushed and sprouted with feathers that almost prevents the bird from walking. Not having seen the English Pouter that will accompany this Work, although I entertain the highest opinion of my brother Fancier, DEAN WOLSTENHOLME, the Painter and Engraver, as to the production; I shall, nevertheless, call your attention to it, believing it will be a copy for you to breed up to, and surpass if possible.

I deeply lament and deplore that there are not more Gentlemen in this noble, dignified, graceful and majestic Fancy, for its elegance, style, and boldness of figure, which so characterises the English Pouter, is well worthy of the utmost attention that the most accomplished Fancier can give it, and will amply repay him for all the toil, labour, time, trouble, and expense he has bestowed upon it.

183.—MAYOR, p. 68. Many people are of opinion that the Almond Tumbler will not perform this back spring, but I must beg leave to contradict this notion, as a gentleman with whom I am very intimately acquainted, who flies his Almond Tumblers in the country, has assured me they are full as expert in tumbling as any Tumbler whatever.

* 183.—With regard to the Almond Tumbler's tumbling, when I first was about to enter the Fancy, and going among Fanciers to purchase Almond Tumblers, one of the Fanciers said to me "See my Almond Tumblers tumble, and go out of sight." I thought, comparatively speaking, I was determined that I would not lose sight of them: they were let out and began tumbling in good style, and mounted to that degree in the elements, that, in spite of all my watching them, although only over my head, and a bright morning, they did go out of my sight. I watched them till, I think, they appeared to me not larger than flies, having by this time the crick in my neck by looking up so high and straight, for still I believe they were over my head; at last they appeared in sight, came gradually down, tumbling most splendidly. I must confess I was astonished, and would not believe it, that of Tumblers going out of sight, straight over my head on a clear morning. On a moment's reflection, I ought not to be so hard of belief, for most of us have seen a balloon up, which is somewhat larger than a Pigeon, and we have watched

184.—A Tumbler is a very small (*) Pigeon, short bodied, full breasted, thin necked, spindle-beaked, (†) and a short button head, (‡) and the irides of the eyes ought to be of a bright pearl colour.

that as carefully as we could, nevertheless, it has given us all the slip. I once saw three up at the same time, they appeared to me like migratory birds; you will not believe it strange when I inform you they appeared to be playing at follow my leader, or one after another. I lost sight of them all, therefore it is not strange that Pigeons should go out of sight, with regard to tumbling. I have no doubt you have often witnessed the Tumbler's back, but not go over. I have often heard it said the cause is owing to the bird having a long tail, and the bird's head touching the tail, balks the bird in going over. To obviate this, some have cut an inch off the tail, and it is said they have afterwards tumbled very well, therefore, in reasoning, it would follow that the Almond Tumbler being so small, snug, and compact a bird, being so short from the beak to the end of the tail, that if flown would tumble better than any other bird, for it is certain the shorter and more chubby the Tumblers are the more they tumble; and, on the contrary, the large common run-out Tumblers like Skinum's, seldom or ever tumble.

* 184.—A first-rate Tumbler, possessing the five properties, is, beyond all doubt, the smallest Pigeon that the Fancier takes into consideration. The Chinese Pigeon, of which you will read afterwards, very likely a Fancier never saw; and if he did, what would he make of it in the end. Mr. MOORE, in Paragraph 212, writing of the Jacobine Pigeon, states, "is, if true," the smallest of all Pigeons. I have not any doubt but the Jack was a very pretty Pigeon in MOORE's time, One Hundred and Seventeen years ago; but it has, at the present time, very much degenerated, or the incomparable Tumbler, possessing the five properties, very much improved—it is certain, one or the other.

† 184.—MAYOR, p. 68. A "short" spindle beak.

‡ 184.—If my memory is not traitor to me, I believe in reading over the text—Mr. JOHN MOORE's Work, you will often fall in with the description of button head. What a button was in MOORE's day, I will not presume to say. Do as I am doing now, put your finger upon the top of the button of the coat you have on, and then answer me this question, "Is this the shape of head you are desirous of obtaining in the Tumbler," fit to put a muffin or crumpet board upon, that you are rampant mad or desirous of obtaining in the Tumbler. I think, decidedly not; at the same time, willing to please you if possible, would you not rejoice to obtain the Carrier's head like unto it; the head and beak are perfectly straight across as is the button. Willing to please you if possible, now do again as I am doing, put your finger and thumb around the button; now answer me this question, Is this the head that you are desirous of obtaining for the Tumbler. "There's a good time coming Boys! there's a good time coming! There's a good time coming, Boys! only wait a little longer!" It therefore follows, that the button head is equally as applicable to the Carrier as to the Tumbler; unless in Mr. MOORE's day, as in my day, when I played at buttons, if you will only recollect or refresh your memory, when the battle was lost or won as regards the game of buttons, a Roley Poley was

185.—The Dutch Tumbler is much of the same make, but larger, often feathered legged, and more jowler-headed with a thin flesh or skin round the eye, not unlike a very sheer dragoon; some people don't esteem them on this account, though I have known very good ones of the Dutch breed, not any ways inferior to what they call the English. Others have remarked that they are apt to tumble too much, and to lose ground, that is, sink beneath the rest of the flight, which is a very great fault, but I have observed the same by the English, and am apt to believe that most of the extraordinary feathers have been produced by mixing with the Dutch breed; for it is generally observed that the English Tumblers are chiefly black, blue, or white.

186.—This Pigeon affords a very great variety of colours in its plumage, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers, and, in short, a pleasant mixture of all these colours with the white. But amongst all, there is a mixture of three colours, vulgarly called an Almond, (*) perhaps from the quantity of almond coloured feathers that are found in the hackle: others call it an ermine, I suppose from the black spots that are generally in it; however I am sensible the name is not compatible to the term so called in heraldry, which is only white spotted with black; yet as the gentlemen of the Fancy have assigned this name to this motley colour, I shan't quarrel with them about a term: if the three colours run through the feathers of the flight and tail, it is reckoned a very good almond, or ermine, and is much valued.

occasionally brought out to balance the account. We looked upon it not as we do upon a stray Pigeon, but as bankers do upon light sovereigns, and insisted upon a good discount. It is possible in MOORE's day, for I was not there to witness, that they wore these Roley Poley buttons, at all events it is a bad idea or word to express a round-headed Pigeon; you had much better use the word—round, as a marble or bonce, or bagatelle ball or globular, and I sincerely hope that however many may follow me, that not any of you will make use of the word—Button head. I consider it not applicable for what it was intended to convey. I have heard some country Fanciers use the term to express the round-headed Tumbler, call them Bullet-headed; nevertheless, I think this a bad name, for I have seen bullets a bad shape, but consider them home made, the name I like best is, Globular.

* 186.—Mr. MOORE presents the Gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy with a very small account of the splendid Almond Tumbler; however, the little he does say is to the point, it may be that he was not an Almond Tumbler Fancier. I am of opinion that the Almond Tumbler had not arrived to the excellence or standard that it had acquired when MAYOR wrote on the Almond Tumbler, exactly thirty years after. I cannot help thinking, from the beautiful account given by MAYOR, compared to the account given by MOORE; nevertheless, who, for all in all, as a Fancier, I style or call the pre-eminent of Fanciers. There must have been great spirit among the Gentlemen of the Almond Fancy during this thirty years. It has been stated that fifty or sixty years ago the Gentlemen of the Fancy had better birds than they have at the present time, that the Almond Tumbler was a more perfect bird than it is now. If the question was put to me thus, What is your opinion with regard to Tumblers, Carriers, or Pouters, whether there is anything alive in the present day equal to what has been seen, taking into consideration the many generations of Pigeon Fanciers who have shewn, but now gone to their long homes? I should conscientiously answer, No! The Fancy, like

187.—*N.B.* An ermine Tumbler never comes to the full beauty of its feather, till it has twice molted off, and when it grows very old will decline till it runs away to a down-right mottle or other colour. (*)

everything else, ebbs and flows, and in some generations there are more ardent and enthusiastic Fanciers than in other generations, besides, Pigeon Fancying has its fashions; at times, it is all the rage to breed Carriers, other times the Pouters, then again Almonds, or black, red, or yellow-mottled Tumblers; but a thorough good Fancier now a day, never stoops to breed toy birds, as they are called, the name being enough. If you require further proof of how little these toy birds, as they are called, are held in estimation, read the account given by MOORE, and compare the toys of the present day, and then you will perceive how the Gentlemen of the Fancy have suffered them to degenerate, not being worth the trouble bestowed upon them; but to return, had MOORE seen the Almond Tumbler in the state of perfection that MAYOR described it, I firmly believe he would have told us all about it; he was too honest a Fancier to have done otherwise. MAYOR gives a long and beautiful account of the Almond Tumbler, too long for me to place it in this book, for if I placed MAYOR'S account of the Almond Tumbler, should I have acted fair if I withheld the whole of the beautiful Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, by an Old Fancier, name not mentioned? The great unknown was no other than — WINDUS, Esq., Solicitor, Southampton Buildings, Holborn.

It would also enhance the price of the Work, that it is possible some of the humble, but honest Fanciers, would not consider themselves justified in purchasing it; besides, having written my Almond Tumbler, it would not do for me to sit in judgment and point out what was original matter, and what was not—this I leave for your careful consideration.

* I cannot help thinking that after carefully having studied and digested MOORE'S work, that he has paid more attention to the Carrier and Pouter than he did to the Tumbler. It is very remarkable, but not more remarkable than true, that MOORE does not mention the black-mottled Tumbler, the yellow-mottled Tumbler, or the red-mottled Tumbler, neither does he mention the bald-head Tumbler, or the beard Tumbler. He rather leaves me here in a fix, for as I stated before in a former part of this work, that we had no right to assume anything. Read Paragraphs 185, 186. In Paragraph 186, MOORE says, this Pigeon affords a very great variety of colours in its plumage, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers, and in short a pleasant mixture of all these colours with the white; at the same time I am driven to exercise my brains upon this subject, and cannot help thinking but there must have been black, yellow and red-mottled Tumblers in MOORE'S day, and as this Fancy ranks so high with Gentlemen Fanciers, I do feel astonished and surprised that he did not mention the mottles, bald-heads, or beard Tumblers. It may be for aught I know, as I was not here one hundred and seventeen years ago, that the mottles, bald heads, and beards, was as prevalent then as they are now, and MOORE might have considered it unnecessary to mention it, or might have considered that he had mentioned it when he stated there were Tumblers of all

188.—These Pigeons by their flight afford an admirable satisfaction, to those gentlemen of the Fancy that have time to attend them, and make their observations; for besides the pleasure that they afford by their tumbling, which is very considerable, they will rise to an immense height in the air, so that sometimes the eye can scarcely follow them. I have frequently lost sight of them, though they have been almost perpendicular over my head and the day has been very clear and serene; yet by a fixed regard of the place where I lost them, (for they never ramble far like the Horseman, and if good when they are used to each other, a flight of a dozen will keep so close together, that you may cover them all with a large handkerchief) I have at length perceived them, but so small that they appeared no bigger than a sparrow.

189.—At this height they will keep two, three, four and sometimes five hours together, nay I have heard it frequently asserted, that there have been pigeons of this breed, which have flown nine hours, (*) when they are up at their pitch, the better sort seldom or never tumble, choosing rather to afford you that diversion when they are more in sight, tumbling very often at the first beginning to rise, and again when they are coming down to pitch.

190.—I now come to the method of raising a flight of Tumblers: and in the first place, they ought, if you have convenience, to be kept in a loft by themselves, not having any acquaintance, if possible, with your other pigeons; for if they are used to fly with others, it will make them sink their flight, when they observe others skimming in the air below them.

191.—Secondly, they ought to be turned out, and put upon flight only once a day at most, and that by themselves, after being well acquainted with your house; the morning is the best time for this diversion, and after they are come down, throw them a little hempseed or rape and canary to entice them in and so keep them confined till the next day.

colours: I acknowledge there is, of whole or self-colour, as it is termed by the Fanciers. MAYOR, thirty years after, gives an excellent account of the blacks, yellows, and red-mottled Tumblers, also of the bald-head and beard Tumblers, which I will place before you.

189.—MAYOR, p. 70. Or twelve hours; but I hope to be excused in thinking the Gentlemen of the flying Fancy may have been deceived in point of time, when they have made those assertions, though I cannot absolutely contradict it. I remember to have heard an old Fancier (not a mile from Long Acre) declare, that he once had a flight of Tumblers that soared so prodigiously high that (to use his own words) he could see them when they were out of sight, which, undoubtedly, appears rather paradoxical; but as miracles never cease, we shall suffer that to pass for one.

I cannot help thinking but that Mr. MAYOR required a little charity, with the old Fancier, for seeing his birds when out of sight; there is such a difference in our vision at times. You all know that at times we see double; and what makes it so remarkable at the same time is, that none of us can see a hole through a ladder. It is possible the first might apply to the Old Fancier, and the second to MAYOR. For a moment allow me to indulge in the phantom of the mind; I wonder where MAYOR heard the old Fancier relate it, no doubt at a meeting of the Fanciers, and they were mellowing their clay; you may depend upon it, it was not at a Total Abstinence Society, for these places were not in fashion at the time.

Thirdly. If possible get one or two that have been used to flying high, for they will train your young ones up the sooner.

192.—Besides these things, the Fanciers have observed particular seasons, when a Tumbler will make a more extravagant flight than ordinary, as for instance, when she sits upon eggs, and a few days after having fed off the soft meat; I can't find any philosophical reason to be given for this, yet as it is confirmed by observation, I thought it worth taking notice of.

193.—Another time, when they will make a very extraordinary flight, is, when you observe ravens, crows or any other birds wantonly playing at a great height in the air; this may be very easily accounted for, there being at such a time something, in the temperament of the air, suitable to the genius of those birds, that delight in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

194.—Here I must advise the Fancier, not to turn out his Tumblers, when there appear any signs of a rising fog, for by this means the sight of their habitation is intercepted, and many a good flight lost for ever.

195.—A high wind will likewise drive them too far from home, so that if they are not entirely lost, they may lie out all night, and so be exposed to the cats or various other accidents.

196.—Lastly, never turn out your hen Tumbler when she is with egg, for besides that she is at that time sick and unfit to fly, so likewise by her long flight, she may drop her egg, an instance of which I have known, and so prevent the increase of your breed. (*)

* 196.—MAYOR, p. 64. There was also a prize last season for black-mottled Tumblers, whose properties should agree with those of the Almond Tumbler, except the feather, which should be a black ground, the body mottled with white, with a black tail and flight; and when they are in perfection, they are an excessive pretty fancy, and very valuable. There is, likewise, another very pretty fancy, equal at least, if not superior, to the black mottled, viz. the yellow-mottled Tumbler; whose properties likewise agree with the Almond Tumbler, except the feather, which should be a yellow ground, the body mottled with white and a yellow flight and tail. Either of these two last mentioned fancies are extremely useful (provided they answer in their other properties) to intermix occasionally with the Almond.

MAYOR, p. 106, presents you with a print of the black mottled Tumbler, as he is pleased to call it with about forty black feathers in it; but on inspection, it is, in fact, neither more or less than a white mottle with black flight and tail; and, as I said before, with between thirty and forty black feathers, spotted over it.

MOORE not having mentioned this bird, but MAYOR having given a beautiful description of it, I shall only have to mention an omission, or it may be that it was not an omission, at all events, I believe it too late to prove whether in MOORE or MAYOR's time they had the handkerchief back, as is now understood by the Fanciers of the present day; whether they had or whether they had not, one thing I do know, there is not any mention of it by MOORE, MAYOR, GIRTIN, or any other writer upon the black, yellow, or red mottle; and I wish you to understand once for all, that a mottle is a mottle provided its colour be black, yellow, red, kite, or any other colour. I can very well recollect the time that I insisted upon the mottle of whatever colour, to have no other feather in it but about nine

or ten white feathers in the shoulder of the wing, and that to form the rose pinion as it is called, being the most elegant of all pinions. However, listening to some worthy old Fanciers who have greatly contended for the handkerchief back, as a relief to the mottled Tumbler, by having the back a little way down mottled with white feathers, and experiencing the difference between breeding a bird for feather and that of giving an Artist instruction in painting a Portrait, in which you can have nine, ten, or eleven white feathers placed in the portrait just where you please. It is otherwise with regard to breeding a mottle for feather, for the white feathers may just come where you do not want it, and then you call it spot rumped or glazed faced. Talk's cheap and costs nothing! I am aware that in five minutes' talk, you can breed prettier marked birds than in seven year's practise. It is possible you may put a question to me, and ask me whether I consider it, a Hit or Miss? Luck's all! To which I most distinctly answer, No. But, on the contrary, requires great judgment, and knowing how your birds were bred, as regard matching. I beg leave most respectfully to apologize to you, sir, it being too late, and perceiving that you know a thing or two, of entering further into the discussion, as I said before, considering the time of morning; I have only to act with you as the old crow did with the young crow, in giving its best advice on being turned loose upon town or country; the old crow advised the young crow, that if ever it saw the boys, of whatever size, to stoop down to pick up a stone to throw at it, to be off immediately; the young crow in its simplicity, put it to the old crow what it should do provided these boys, of whatever growth, should have a stone in their pockets, the old crow served the young crow as I am going to serve you, by wishing you, Good Morning.

MAYOR, p. 74. The bald-pated Tumblers, which are of various colours in their body, as blacks, blues, &c. with a clean white head, a pearl eye, white flight and white tail, are esteemed good flyers, and are very pretty, even when flying in the air, for the contrast of the feather appears at that distance when the weather is clear and fine; but the blue one are reputed to rise higher than any other colour. There are also some called blue or black-bearded, that is either of those colours having a long white spot from the under jaw and cheek, a little way down the throat and regularly shaped, which has a pretty effect as an ornament; and if they run clean in the flight and tail, as before mentioned in the bald-pated Pigeon, they are accounted handsome.

I cannot by any possibility let this opportunity pass without noticing the admiration the old Fanciers bestow upon the pretty little blue whole feather Tumbler, with its black bars, whenever they have the opportunity to see one; but they are very scarce.

The Almond Tumbler, the black, red, and yellow mottled Tumbler, bald-head and beards, of whatever colour in feather, the blue or white, or any colour, provided it is not objectionable—the fact is, a Tumbler is a Tumbler for All that and All that; and they all require to be equally good as touching the five properties as laid down by the Fanciers; a white short-faced Tumbler, possessing the five properties with a pearl eye, would be considered a great curiosity, and would realise a large sum of money. I knew an old Fancier, that after his death, one of

his bald-heads, at auction, realized twenty-five pounds; and I knew another case of a blue-beard, it was a bad colour, sooty blue or lead colour, that it could not be purchased for ten pounds; therefore, it does not follow that it is so much in feather, but the fact is, in the properties of Carriage, Head, Beak, &c. which it is useless to attempt to deny, therefore it follows, the Almond Tumbler and other Tumblers, equally possessing the five properties alike, differ in nothing but feather.

MAYOR, p. 65. It may not be amiss before I conclude this head, to remark a distinction which the Society of Columbarians make between Pigeon Fanciers and Pigeon-keepers, viz.—such gentlemen who keep good of the sort, whether they are Almond, black-mottled, or yellow-mottled Tumblers, Carriers, Pouters, Horseman, Dragons, Leghorn or Spanish Runts, Jacobines, Barbs, Turbets, Owls, broad tailed Shakers, Nuns, Spots, Trumpeters, &c., are styled Fanciers; on the contrary, those who keep trash are called Pigeon-keepers, of which last denomination there are a surprising number. It is prodigiously amazing and unaccountable, that any gentleman will bestow food upon such as are not in reality worth the tares they devour, and can be accounted for no other way than by supposing such gentlemen utterly unacquainted with the true properties and perfections of the several species they entertain, which it must be confessed is rather an harsh supposition, (except they breed for the spit only, and even then their table might be as amply supplied by the better sort), the expense of keeping either being equal in every respect, the difference arising only in the purchase of one pair. Should any objection be made to the expense of the first purchase of the better sort, I answer it is infinitely cheaper to bestow four or five guineas on one pair of good birds (which in a short time would sufficiently stock a loft, and repay the purchase with great interest, Pouters or Leghorn Runts excepted, because, as before observed, they must not be bred in and in), than to begin with bad ones at eighteen pence a pair, the value of which can never be enhanced. I hope I need not here apologize, or be thought illnatured by those gentlemen whose fancy may differ from mine, in giving my real sentiments and opinion so freely, as I have advanced nothing but matter of fact, and is the result of many years experience, having been possessed (I believe I may venture to say, without vanity), of as good, if not the best in England, of Fancy Pigeons, besides toys of all kinds.

It is my intention of having two Almond Tumblers, a black-mottle, a red-bald-head, and yellow-beard, all Tumblers to accompany this Work, for your observations and reflections. I would here most particularly call your attention to the five properties of the Tumbler, contained in my Almond Tumbler, p. 7, 8, 9. In fact, the whole of my Almond Tumbler is applicable to any other Tumbler, as touching the five properties, &c. &c. (with only the exception of the Feather.) For what, after all, is an Almond, but a Tumbler! The cause of my writing so little in this place upon the Tumbler is, having written so fully at another part of the work on the Almond Tumbler, and, for the last time, to rivet on your memory, is applicable to all Tumblers.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA LABRONIS seu PISARUM.

The Leghorn Runt.

197.—The Leghorn Runt is a stately large Pigeon, seven inches or better in legs, close feathered, and fast fleshed, extremely broad chested and very short in the back, he carries his tail, when he walks, somewhat turned up like a duck, but when he plays, he tucks it down; his neck is longer than any other Pigeon, which he carries bending like a goose or a swan. He is goose headed, and his eye lies hollow in his head, with a thin skin round it much like the Dutch Tumbler, but broader, his beak is very short for so large a bird, with a small wattle on it, and the upper chap a little bending over the under.

198.—They are a very tender bird, (*) and great care ought to be taken of their young ones. (†) I was offered seventeen shillings for a single cock, and Sir DOLBEY THOMAS would have given me a guinea and a half for the same bird. (‡) There are very few true original ones of this breed in England; and if matched to a Spanish Runt, they will breed a very large Pigeon, closer in flesh and feather, than the Spanish Runt, and will breed much faster; (§) I have killed of their young ones, which when on the spit were full as large as middling spring fowls; (||) where note that these and all other Runts, increase in their bulk, till they are three or four years old.

199.—As to their feather, they are various, but the best that I have seen were either black or red mottled.

200.—There is a vast difference in these birds, and I have seen very bad ones, that have been brought from Leghorn, little better than a common Runt; however this is the genuine true description of the Leghorn Runt, which is more valued than any other sort of Runts.

201.—This Pigeon was originally bred either at Pisæ in the Duke of Tuscany's dominions, or at Pisæ in Peloponesus, and from thence brought to Leghorn, and so transmitted to us; but I rather judge the latter because it answers the description of the Pigeon which WILLOUGHBY in his Ornithology calls Columba Turcica seu Persica, the Turkish or Persian Pigeon.

* 198.—MAYOR, p. 109. But I must beg leave to dissent from that opinion of them, having kept them several winters in a little shed or room, one side of which was entirely open, and exposed to the easterly winds, with no other fence but a net, which kept them confined.

† 198.—Ibid. p. 109. For they rear but few in the season if left to bring them up themselves, therefore it would be most proper to shift their eggs under a Dragon, or some other good nurse, in the same manner as mentioned of the Pouter; remembering to give them a young one of some kind to feed off their soft meat, if this method be pursued they will breed very well.

‡ 198.—Ibid. p. 109. I have known four guineas given for a pair of these birds.

§ 198.—Ibid. p. 109. I had a hen of the Leghorn breed that weighed two pounds two ounces, avoirdupoise weight.

|| 198.—GIRTIN, p. 83. Some of this sort when brought to table have appeared as large as a pullet; and a certain veteran Fancier of credit has assured us, that he killed a hen of the Leghorn breed that weighed two pounds and a half, avoirdupoise weight.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA HISPANIÆ.

The Spanish Runt.

202.—This Pigeon, as may readily be perceived by its name, comes originally from Spain; and is the longest bodied of all pigeons; I have seen them three and twenty inches long, from the Apex of the beak to the extremity of the tail, they are thick and short legged, loose feathered, and loose fleshed, and don't walk erect as the Leghorn Runt does.

203.—There are of all feathers in this kind of bird, but being short-legged, are apt to sit too heavy upon their eggs, and by that means break them, to prevent which inconvenience, the best way is to put chalk eggs under them, and set their eggs under a pair of smaller Runts or Powting-horseman, which are more kindly breeders; not forgetting to give your Spanish Runts a pair of young ones, at the time when they ought to hatch, that they may feed off their soft meat, which they always prepare against that time.

204.—I have seen a Pigeon very much resembling the Spanish Runt, with longer legs, but I rather take these Runts to come from Mexico, Peru, or some other parts of the Spanish West Indies.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA FRISIÆ.

The Friesland Runt.

205.—This Pigeon comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger sort of middle-sized Runts; its feathers stand all reverted, and I can't see for what it can be admired except for its ugliness.

206.—There are other sorts of Runts, as the Roman Runt which is so big and heavy it can hardly fly; and the Smyrna Runt, which is middle sized and feather-footed. I have seen the feathers growing on the outside of each foot, that they look as if they carried wings on their feet, I have measured some of these feathers which have been four inches and a half long; these birds are very apt to drag their eggs and young ones out of the nest, if not kept clean and dry. To these we may add the common Runt, which are kept purely for the dish, and generally in locker-holes in inn yards or other places, and are well known to every body; they are good feeders and therefore good nurses for any of the more curious sorts of Pigeons.

207.—The following sorts of Pigeons are generally deemed and called Toys by the gentlemen of the Fancy.

COLUMBA MACULATA. *The Spot.*

208.—This Pigeon is about the size of a small Runt, and was first transmitted to us from Holland, but from whence the original of this breed came, I can't as yet learn; they have a spot upon their heads, just above their beak, and from thence take their name, the feathers of the tail are of the same colour with the spot, and the rest of their body is all white. The spot and tail in some of these Pigeons is black, in others red, in others yellow; and I have been informed that there are some blue; they look pretty when they spread their tail and fly, and always breed their young ones of the same colour.

COLUMBA RIDENS. *The Laugher.*

209.—This Pigeon is about the size of middling Runt, and much of the same make, and I am informed has a very bright pearl eye, almost white; as for its feather, it is red-mottled; and some tell me they have seen blues. They are said

to come from the Holy Land near Jerusalem. When the cock plays to his hen, he has a hoarse coo, not unlike the guggling of a bottle of water, when poured out, and then makes a noise, which very much imitates a soft laughter, and from thence this bird has its name.

COLUMBA TIBICEN. *The Trumpeter.*

210.—The Trumpeter is a bird much about the size of a Laugher, and very runtishly made; they are generally pearle-eyed, black-mottled, very feather-footed and legged, turn crowned like the Nun, and sometimes like a Finikin, but much larger, which I take to be the better sort as being more melodious; but the best characteristic to know them, is a tuft of feathers growing at the root of the beak, and the larger this tuft is, the more they are esteemed. The reason of their name, is from their imitating the sound of a trumpet after playing: though I once enquired of a German, who brought Pigeons over to sell here, the reason of their being so called, and as he told me, he believed, was that they were first brought to Holland by a drummer or trumpeter, and so were called trumpeters from him. Credat Judæus Apella, let who will swallow this gudgeon, (*)

211.—The more salacious they are, the more they will trumpet; for which reason, if you have a mind to be often entertained with their melody, you must give them good store of hemp-seed; otherwise they will seldom trumpet much, except in Spring, when they are naturally more salacious than usual.

COLUMBA CYPRIA CUCULLATA.

The Jacobine Pigeon.

212.—The Jacobine, or as it is vulgarly called for shortness, the Jack, is, if true, the smallest of all Pigeons, and the smaller still the better; it has a range of feathers inverted quite over the hinder part of the head, and reaching down on each side of the neck to the shoulders of the wings, which forms a kind of a fryer's hood; from hence this Pigeon has its name Jacobine, because the fathers of that order all wear hoods to cover their bald crowns; hence the upper part of this range of feathers is called the hood, and the more compact these feathers are, and the closer to the head, so much the more this bird is esteemed: The lower part of this range of feathers is called by us, the chain, but the Dutch call it the cravat, the feathers of this chain ought to be long and close, so that if you strain the neck a little, by taking hold of the bill, the two sides will lap over each other in some of the best; but there are but very few now to be found in England compleat.(†).

* 210.—It appears a hundred and seventeen years ago, when MOORE wrote his book, there were gudgeons in the world, but since then the flats have become more fashionable.

† 212.—MAYOR, p. 114. The breed of them having suffered much in my opinion in general, by a wrong method of propagating them, viz.—that of intermixing the breed of the Ruff with them, in order to improve their chain, by lengthening the feathers thereof, whereby, the chain is considerably detrimented by being looser, and not so closely connected as it otherwise would have been, had the Jack and the Ruff been entirely kept separate. It has likewise caused the Jack to be bred larger, a longer beak, and looser in its hood than it was originally; for the true Jack is a small bird, very little larger than a Tumbler, and the smaller it is the better.

MAYOR, p. 115. The Pigeon dealers have a method of coaxing the hood and chain of this bird (as the term is) which they perform by clipping the feathers

213.—The Jacobine ought to have a very short bill, the shorter the better, and a clean pearle eye.

214.—As for the feather, there are reds, yellows, blues, blacks and mottles; but be the feather what it will, they ought to have a clean white head, white flight, and white tail.

215.—Of these Pigeons some are feathered legged and footed, others are not, and both sorts are equally esteemed, according to the various inclination of different fanciers. (*)

COLUMBA CUCULLATA MINOR. *The Capuchine.*

216.—This Pigeon is in shape and make very like the Jacobine, and has its name like the former from another set of hooded ecclesiastics.

217.—It is something larger in body than the Jack, its beak longer, it has a tolerable hood, but no chain, it is in feather (†) and other properties the same. Some will assert it to be a distinct species, but I am more inclinable to imagine it is only a bastard breed from a Jacobine and another Pigeon; however thus far I am sure, that a Jack and another will breed a bird so like it, as will puzzle the authors of this assertion to distinguish it, from what they call their separate species. (§).

at the back part of the head and neck, and continually stroking the hood and chain forwards, which makes them advance further than they otherwise would; and sometimes they cut a piece of skin out between the throat and the chest, and sew it up again, by which means the chain is drawn closer. It should have a very small rise, &c.

* 215.—MAYOR, p. 116. In France and Holland they have brought this species to much greater perfection than in England, for of late years they have been much neglected here, which I think the greater pity, as they are by far the most pleasing of any of the Toy Pigeons whatever. A very ingenious gentleman of my acquaintance, and an exceeding good Fancier, as well as a great Naturalist, being at Paris last summer, purchased two pairs of these birds, and charged himself with the trouble and care of bringing them over to England, which he effected, in order to restore the true original breed of them, but was prevented in that, by a cat getting into his loft, and thereby destroying them all.

MAYOR, p. 117. The following being in itself so uncommon, and a Fact, I cannot help taking notice of it; a person the other day passing through Fleet Street, seeing a print of this bird at a shop window, stopped to make his observations thereon, and having well viewed it he went in and purchased it, declaring to the seller, that he never saw a stronger likeness in his life, and, as for the wig, it was exactly the same he always wore, for he imagined it altogether a caricature of one of his intimate acquaintances; and the person of whom he bought it, did not think it necessary at that time to undeceive him.

† 217.—MAYOR, p. 121. Its feathers is various, sometimes blue, red, yellow, mottled, black, &c.; but should, like the Jack, always have a clean white head, white flight and white tail, and a pearl eye.

‡ 217.—Ibid. p. 122. These sort are in very small esteem amongst the Fanciers, though each particular species have their admirers.

COLUMBA VESTALIS. *The Nun.*

218.—The Ruff should in proper order have been next inserted, as being nearest in kind to the two foregoing; but we chose rather to introduce the Nun in this place, that she might be as near as possible to those venerable sons of the church, who generally take a great delight to associate themselves with the female saints.

219.—The Nun therefore is a bird somewhat larger than a Jacobine, her plumage is very particular, and she seems entirely to take her name from it, her head being as it were covered with a veil. (*)

220.—Her body is all white, her head, tail and six of her flight feathers ought to be entirely black, red and yellow; (†) and whatever feathers vary from this are said to be foul, though the best of them all will sometimes apt to breed a few foul feathers, and those that are but little so, though not so much valued, will often breed as clean feathered birds as those that are not.

221.—A Nun ought likewise to be pearly-eyed, and to have a white hood, or tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, which the larger it is, adds a considerable beauty to the bird.

COLUMBA GALEATA. *The Helmet.*

223.—This Pigeon is much about the size of a Nun, or somewhat bigger. The head, tail, and flight-feathers of the wings, are always of one colour, as black, red, yellow; and I have been informed there are some blue, and all the rest of the body white, so that the chief difference between them and the Nun is, that they have no hood on the hinder part of the head and are generally gravel-eyed.

224.—They are called Helmets from their heads being covered with a plumage which is distinct in colour from the body, and appears somewhat like a helmet to cover the head.

COLUMBA CUCULLATA RUDIS. *The Ruff.*

225.—This Pigeon is larger than the true original Jacobine, though in shape and make much the same. (‡)

226.—It has a longer beak, the irides of the eyes in some are of a pearl-colour, in others of a gravel colour, the feathers of its hood and chain are much longer, though the chain does not come down so low to the shoulders of the wings, neither are they near so compact and close as the others, but are apt to blow about with

* 219.—MAYOR, p. 123. Is a bird that attracts the eye greatly, from the contrast in her plumage, which is very particular.

† 220.—Ibid. p. 123. Namely, if her head be black, her tail and flight should be black likewise; if her head be red, then her tail and flight should be red; or if her head be yellow, her tail and flight should be also yellow; and are accordingly called either red-headed Nuns, yellow-headed Nuns, &c. Should a black-headed Nun have a white or any other coloured feather in her head, except black, she would be called foul-headed; or a white feather in her flight, she would be foul-flighted, &c. and the same rule stands good in the red-headed or yellow-headed Nuns.

‡ 225.—MAYOR, p. 119. Insomuch that they have been frequently sold for such, to those who have not thoroughly understood the properties belonging to the Jack.

every blast of wind, fall more backward off the head, and lie in a rough confused manner, whence the Pigeon has its name. (*)

227.—The strain of Jacobines has been much vitiated by matching them to this Pigeon, in order to improve their chain by the length of the Ruff's feathers, but instead of this, the Jack is bred larger, longer beaked, looser in its hood and chain, and in short worsted in all its original properties.

COLUMBA IN GYRUM FLECTENS. *The Finnikin.*

228.—This Pigeon is in make and shape very like a common Runt, and much about the same size. The crown of its head is turned much after the manner of a snakes head; it is gravel-eyed and has a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the crown, which runs down its neck not unlike a horses main? it is cleaned footed and legged and always black, and blue pied. When it is salacious, it rises over its hen and turns round three or four times, flapping its wings, then reverses and turns as many the other way.

229.—Where a gentleman in the country to stock a dove-house with this sort of Pigeons, their whimsical gestures might engage the country people to imagine he kept an enchanted castle.

230.—Some people disapprove of this sort of Pigeons as apt to vitiate their other strains by making a hen squat by these antic gestures; but in fact they are no more dangerous that way than any other breed when salacious.

COLUMBA CIRCUMAGENS. *The Turner.*

231.—This Pigeon is in many respects like the Finnikin, except that when it is salacious and plays to the female in turns only one way, whereas the other turns both; it has no tuft on the hinder part of the head, neither is it snake-headed.

COLUMBA NUMIDICA. *The Barb, or Barbary Pigeon.*

232.—This Pigeon is in size somewhat larger than a Jacobine, it is called a Barb for shortness instead of the Barbary Pigeon, being originally brought from that country.

233.—It has a very short beak like a bull-finch, with a very small wattle, and a naked circle of tuberos red flesh round the eyes, whose irides are of a pearle colour, the broader and redder this flesh is, the more the bird is valued, though it is very narrow when the bird is young, and does not come to its full growth till they are four years old. Some of them have a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, somewhat like a Finniken, and others not.

234.—Mr. WILLOUGHBY, in his description of this bird, is guilty of a very great mistake, in imagining the tuberos flesh to be white in some birds of this kind, which it never is, though it will grow paler when the bird is sick; but when it recovers, always reassumes its wonted redness.

235.—Their original colour is either black or dun, though there are Pies of both these feathers, but they are bred from the Barb and Mahomet, and are not so much valued.

† 226.—MAYOR, p. 120. Their feather is also the same as that of the Jack; so that it is not to be so much wondered at, that those who were unacquainted with the properties of the true original Jack, should have a Ruff imposed on them in its stead; but I hope we have sufficiently described the Ruff to be worse than the Jack in all its properties, so as to prevent future impositions of that kind.

COLUMBA NUMIDICA ALBA. *The Mahomet.*

236.—This Pigeon is no more in reality than a white Barb, which makes the red tuberos flesh round the eyes look very beautiful. All that can further be added with regard to this Pigeon, is to assign the reason, why this name of Mahomet is given to it, which I take to be this.

237.—Mahomet, the imposter prophet of the Turkish religion, and author of the Alcoran, is reputed by some authors, and those of good note, as Scaliger, Grotius, and Sionita, to have made use of the following stratagem, to induce the credulous Arabians to believe that he conversed frequently with the Holy Spirit, and received from his mission as a prophet, and the new doctrines he was about to broach.

238.—This imposture he carried on in this manner: he took a young pigeon of this kind which we are now describing, and which by the immaculate whiteness of its plumage, was not an improper emblem of purity and the celestial dove: this bird he brought up by hand, and made it very tame and familiar, till at last he taught it to eat meat out of his ear, which he might easily do, especially if he fed it with rape or hemp-seed there, which all Pigeons are naturally fond of, till at last the Pigeon would come frequently to search for its food there. This bird he imposed upon the Arabians to be the Holy Ghost, whispering the dictates of the Almighty, and teaching him the precepts of his new law, and from hence, this bird is called after him by the name of Mahomet. (*)

239.—Since we are thus entered into the story of this Imposter, it may not be amiss to amuse our readers, with a stratagem an Arabian girl made use of to prove the truth of his pretended mission; the story as related by D. Prideaux in his life of Mahomet runs thus.

240.—Three years before his death, he led forth his army against Chaibar, a city inhabited by Arabs of the Jewish religion, who being overthrown by him in battle, he besieged their city and took it by storm. And here those who are the magnifiers of Ali, tell this miracle of him, that in the assault, Sampson like, he plucked up one of the gates of the city (which was of that weight, saith Abul Feda, that eight other men could not move it) and held it before him for a shield to defend himself against the beseiged, till the city was taken. On Mahomet's entering the town, he took up his quarters in the house of Hareth, one of the principal inhabitants of the place; whose daughter Zainab making ready a shoulder of mutton for his supper, poisoned it; and here those who are for ascribing miracles to Mahomet, tells us that the shoulder of mutton spoke to him, and discovered that it was poisoned; but it seems if it did so, it was too late to do him any good. For Basher, one of his companions, falling on too greedily, to eat of it, fell down dead on the place. And although Mahomet had not immediately the same fate, because not liking the taste, he spit out again what he had taken into his mouth,

* 238.—MAYOR, p. 141. So far Mr. MOORE: and I think he has extremely well accounted for its being so called; but it is the opinion of many Fanciers, that the bird called a Mahomet is nearly a cream coloured, with bars cross the wings as black as ebony, the feathers very particular, being of two colours: the upper part or surface of them, appearing of a cream, and underneath a kind of sooty colour, nearly approaching to black; as are likewise the flue-feathers, and even the skin, which I never observed in any other Pigeon but these; its size much like that of a Turbit, with a fine gullet, and in lieu of a frill, the feathers rather appear like a seam, the head is short, and inclined to be thick; hath an orange-eye, and a small naked circle of black flesh round the same; and a beak something resembling that of a bullfinch with a small black wattle on it.

MAYOR, p. 142. I must confess I rather think this bird a mixed strain, between a Turbit and some other Pigeon.

yet he let down enough to do his business : for he was never well after this supper, and at three years end died of it. The maid being asked why she did this, answered, that she had a mind to make trial whether he were a prophet or no. For were he a prophet, said she, he could certainly know that the meat was poisoned ; and therefore would receive no harm from it ; but if he were not a Prophet, she thought she should do the world good service in ridding it of so wicked a tyrant.

241.—During his sickness, he much complained of the bit which he had taken at Chaibar, telling those that came to visit him, that he had felt the torments of it in his body ever since, and that at times it brought on him very dolorous pains, and that then it was going to break his very heart strings. And when among others, there came to see him the mother of Basher, who died on the spot, of that poison, he cried out, O mother of Basher, the veins of my heart are now breaking of the bit which I eat with your son at Chaibar : so that it seems notwithstanding the intimacy which he pretended with the angel Gabriel, and the continual revelation which he bragged that he received from him, he could not be preserved from thus perishing by the hands of a silly girl.

COLUMBA FIMBRIATA. *The Turbit.*

242.—The reason, why this pigeon is so named by the English, I cannot by any means account for ; the low Dutch call it cort-beke, (*) or short-bill upon the account of the shortness of its beak.

243.—It is a small Pigeon very little bigger than a Jacobine, its beak is very short like a partridge, and the shorter the better ; it has a round button head, and the feathers on the breast open and reflect both ways, standing out almost like a fringe or the frill of a modern shirt ; this is called the purle, and the more of it the bird has, the more it is admired.

244.—As for the feather, their tail and back of the wings ought to be of one entire colour, as blue, black, red, yellow, dun and sometimes chequered ; (†) the flight feathers and all the rest of the body should be white. (‡) They are a very pretty light pigeon, and if used to fly when young, some of them make very good flyers. I have seen a flight of them kept by one GIRTON that would mount almost high as Tumblers. (§)

245.—There are of this sort all white, black, and blue, which by a mistake are often called and taken for owls.

COLUMBA BUBO NOMINATA. *The Owl.*

246.—This Pigeon is in make and shape like the former, except that the upper chap of its beak is hooked over like an owl's, from whence it has its name.

* 242.—GIRTIN, p. 95. From a corruption of the word cortbeck, or cortbete, as it is called by the Dutch, which word seems to be originally derived from the French courtbec, and signifies a short bill, for which this Pigeon is remarkable.

† 244.—MAYOR, p. 127. The red and yellow ones excepted, whose tails should be white ; and those that are blue, should have black bars across the wings.

‡ 244.—MAYOR, p. 128. And are called by the Fanciers (according to the colour they are of) as black-shouldered, yellow-shouldered, blue-shouldered Turbits, &c.

§ 244.—GIRTIN, p. 96. A veteran Fancier of some note has informed us that he trained a flight of these birds, which, for their lofty soaring, seemed to dispute the palm with his Tumblers.

246.—MAYOR, p. 125. This bird, from its pleasing, meek, and innocent aspect, I should have described immediately after the Jacobine, it being, in my opinion,

247.—Its plumage (*) is always entirely white, blue, or black. (†)

COLUMBA TREMULA LATICAUDA.

The Broad-tailed Shaker.

248.—This Pigeon, has a beautiful long thin neck, which bends like the neck of a swan, leaning towards the back; it has a frequent tremulous motion, or shaking in the neck, especially when salacious, which is the reason they are called Shakers. It has a full breast, a very short back, and a tail consisting of a great number of feathers, seldom less than four and twenty, which it spreads in a very elegant manner, like the tail of a turkey cock, and throws it up so much that the head and tail frequently meet.

249.—They are called by some Fan-tails, and I once saw one that had six and thirty feathers in its tail; but when they have so many feathers it is apt to make them lop their tails, and not let it meet with their head, which is a very great fault.

250.—They are most commonly all white, though I have seen both black, blue, red and yellow pids, but the white ones have generally the best carriage in their tail and head: there are two sorts of these broad-tailed shakers, the one having a neck much longer and more slender than the other, but the longest neck is the most beautiful and the most esteemed.

COLUMBA TREMULA ARCTICAUDA.

The Narrow-tailed Shaker.

251.—This Pigeon is reckoned by some a distinct species, though I am apt to believe it is only a bastard breed between the foregoing and some other bird. Its neck is shorter and thicker, its back longer, the feathers of its tail are not so much spread out, but fall as it were double, lying over one another, and the tail generally lops very much. (‡)

the next in point of beauty; but as Mr. MOORE observes: " 'Tis pity to separate those venerable Sons of Clergy, and the female Saints;" therefore, we have suffered them to follow each other for that reason only. It has a very round button head and gravel eye.

* 247.—MAYOR, p. 126. The feathers on the breast open and reflect both ways expanding itself something like a rose, which is called the purle by some, and by others the frill, and the more the bird has of that the better, with a gullet reaching down from the beak to the frill.

† 247.—MAYOR, p. 126. Or yellow, &c., except some that are chequered. The blue ones should have black bars across the wings, and the lighter they are in colour, particularly in the hackle, the more they are valued. These birds should have their breeding places made so that they may sit in private, as mentioned under the head of building a loft, for they are very wild, like the Carrier, and apt to fly off their eggs if in the least disturbed.

‡ 251.—MAYOR, p. 131. Its feather varies as the former, but are generally white; though I have seen an Almond of this sort, which was purchased by a certain nobleman.

*An Alphabetical Explanation of some of the less common Words
made use of in the course of this Work.*

A.

Abstemious, moderate, or temperate.
Adapted, made fit for.
Adepts, masters of, or proficient in.
Adulterated, counterfeited, or made worse.
Agriculture, the art of husbandry, or improvement of land to make it fertile.
Alcoran, the Turks book of their law or gospel, written by the false prophet Mahomet.
Anus, the orifice, or hole of the fundament.
Apex, the point or top of anything.
Atmosphere, that part of the air next our earth which receives and contains the vapours and exhalations.

B.

Bashaw, a governor or magistrate of a particular place, or province among the Turks, Bazora a city in Persia.

C.

Cataplasm, a poultice. Cephalæa, an obstinate head-ache.
Chalazæ, hail-stones.
Characteristic, a mark or sign.
Chronic, that which is of a long continuance, and not presently coming to a height.
Cognisance, knowledge or notice.
Coition, the intercourse between male and female.
Compact, close, well joined together.
Concurrence, meeting, or assistance.
Contiguous, close, touching, as when the surface of one body meets with another.
Contingency, casualty, or accident.
Contrast, a difference, or opposition of figure, which is reckoned beauty.
Caustic, a composition for burning, or eating holes in the part to which it is applied.

D.

Dalliance, toying, or wantonness.
Diarrhæa, looseness.
Dictates, precepts, or rules.
Dissolution, a dissolving or separation of the parts.
Diuretic, that provokes urine.
Dolorous, grievous, sad.

E.

Effoete, barren.
Emblem, a representation of some moral notion by way of picture, or device.

Emergent, something of consequence that happens on a sudden.
Emission, a sending forth, a casting out.
To engender, to breed within, commonly spoken of animals, and not of human nature.

Erect, upright.

Eruption, an issuing, or breaking out.

Excrementitious, pertaining to the excrement, or whatever is evacuated, or cast out of the body.

Excrescency, superfluous flesh that grows to any part of the body.

Exhausted, drained or emptied.

External, outward.

Extremity, the edge, end, brink, or border of a thing.

To Extricate, to disentangle, or disengage.

F.

Fertility, fruitfulness.

Fœtus, the young of any animal perfectly formed.

Frail, the basket in which raisins are brought over.

Furfuraceous, scurfy, from its resemblance to bran.

G.

Generation, a real action, whereby a living creature begets another like it of the same kind.

Genius, disposition, or inclination.

Genuine, natural, or real.

Genus, the kind.

I.

Immaculate, spotless, unspotted.

Immense, unmeasurable, vast, prodigious.

Immerst, plunged or dipped into.

To Impregnate, to render prolific, or fit to bring forth

Incident, liable to, any thing that happens, or falls out.

Incubation, sitting a brood.

Incompatible, not suitable to, not agreeing with.

Inferior, lower in degree, worse.

Ingredient, the separate parts, that go to the making up a mixed body.

Injecting, casting or squirting in.

Innate, inbred, natural.

Instinct, that disposition, or natural sagacity in any creature, which by its peculiar formation it is naturally endowed with, by virtue whereof, they are enabled to provide for themselves, know what is good for them and are determined to preserve and propagate their species.

Intercepted, prevented.
 Internal, inward.
 Inverted, turned backward, or the contrary way from the common custom.
 Iris, the circle round the black spot, or pupil of the eye.
 Irides, the plural number of the foregoing. L.
 Lieu, the place, room or stead of. M.
 Machine, an engine fitted for some peculiar purpose.
 Magnitude, size, bulk, bigness.
 Malady, a disease.
 Malignity, hurtfulness, mischievous quality.
 Matrix, that part of the womb wherein the foetus, or the egg is conceived and nourished till the time of its delivery.
 Megrims, a distemper which affects the temples or head.
 Mission, a sending, or an authority to preach. N.
 Nitrous, having the quality of nitre.
 Nutriment, nourishment or food. O.
 Oesophagus, the gullet, being a passage for the food, situate behind the wind-pipe.
 Operation, a labouring or working.
 Ornithology, a description of the several kinds and natures of birds.
 Ossificated, turned to, or become bone.
 Ovary, that part of the womb in which the eggs are contained, called by the fanciers, the egg-bag. P.
 Perpendicular, directly upright.
 Plastic virtue, a term invented by naturalists to express the faculty of generation.
 Plumage, the colour and mixture of the feathers.
 Pores, holes, or void spaces between the particles or smaller parts of matter.
 Potent, powerful.
 Potestates, or powers, are the result of a combination or union of the essential oils with the spirit, wherein it is supposed are contained all the principal virtues.
 Pressure, the pressing of the air by its gravity or weight.
 Priority, being first in rank, order, or dignity.
 Progeny, offspring, issue, or race.
 Projecting, standing out.

Prolific, fruitful, apt to breed.
 Propagation, the act of encreasing, or multiply the kind.
 Protuberant, bunching, or standing out.
 Provocative, apt to provoke, or stir up.
 Pustules, wheals or pimples full of matter. R.
 Reception, receiving.
 Recipe, a prescription or bill, giving directions for preparing or compounding of a medicine.
 Reflected, turned back.
 Repository, a place to lay up anything.
 Resservoir, a receiver to retain anything till wanted.
 Restorative, of a restoring or strengthening nature.
 Reverses, turns backs.
 Reverted, turn back. S.
 Sagacity, wisdom or cunning.
 Salacious, wanton, rank.
 Salaciousness, wantonness, or rankness.
 Scrophula, the evil.
 Seraglio, the palace of the grand Seignior at Constantinople, where he keeps his court, concubines, &c.
 Species, a particular sort.
 To Stagnate, to stand still, as water in a pool, without motion.
 Subventaneous, addle.
 Sustenance, food, nourishment.
 Symmetry, a due proportion, or uniformity of parts, in respect to the whole. T.
 Temperament, a proper mixture of the elements.
 Tour, a turnabout.
 Transmitted, sent over.
 Tremulous, shaking or quavering.
 Tuberos, full of knots, or small swellings.
 Tumor, a rising or swelling in the body. U.
 Uterus, the womb.
 Unctuous, oily, greasy. V.
 Vertigo, a giddiness or swimming in the head; an indisposition in the brain.
 Virago, a hen that beats or fights with a cock, taking the offices of the male upon her.
 Vital, belonging to, or supporting life.
 Vitellary, the cluster of eggs in a hen, from their resemblance to a bunch of grapes.
 Vitiated, corrupted, spoiled, made worse.

FINIS.

[AS REGARDS MR. MOORE'S WORK]

THE LACE PIGEON.

MAYOR, p. 143. This bird is, I believe, originally bred in Holland, where I am informed there are great numbers of them; though not one that I know of to be seen in England at present: it is in size rather less than a common Runt, and like it in shape and make; though I once saw a Shaker of this kind: their colour is white, and they are valued on account of their scarcity and the peculiarity of their feathers; the fibres, or web, of which appear disunited from each other throughout their whole plumage, and not in the least connected, as in common with all other Pigeons, where they form a smooth close feather.

THE FRILL BACK.

MAYOR, p. 144. Is something less in size than a Dragoon, and in shape like the common Runt; their colour generally (if not always) white; and what is chiefly remarkable in them is, the turn of their feathers, which appear as if every one distinctly had been raised at the extremity with a small round pointed instrument, in such manner as to form a small cavity in each of them.

GIRTIN, p. 107. Or, as if the bird had been under the hands of some of our modern hair-dressers, and had its plumage frizzed and curled at the ends. It is in size less than the common Runt, though very much like it in shape; and its plumage is always white.

THE SMITER.

GIRTIN, p. 107. This Pigeon in shape, make, and diversity of plumage, nearly resembles the Tumbler, the size excepted, it being a much larger bird. The Smiter is supposed to be the same species that the Dutch call the Drager; when it flies it has a peculiar tremulous motion with its wings, and commonly rises in a circular manner, the male for the generality, flying much higher than the female, and though it does not tumble, it has a particular manner of falling and flabbing its wings, with which it makes so loud a noise as to be heard at a great distance which is frequently the cause of its shattering or breaking its quill-feathers.

THE CHINESE PIGEON.

GIRTIN, p. 108. This beautiful little Pigeon is a native of Pekin in China, and was imported into Europe in some of the Companies' ships; it is only to be seen in the collections of the rich and curious, who have always large cages, or a distinct aviary built on purpose for them. It is a very scarce and dear bird, and in our opinion one of the greatest curiosities of the Pigeon kind, therefore for the satisfaction of our readers we shall give a particular description of it.

This Pigeon in size is rather less than the common Swallow; the sides of the head are yellow, but the top, and the space round the eyes are of an ash colour; it has a blueish ash-coloured beak, and the irides of its eyes are of a fine white: the extreme feathers on each side the head and neck are red, and there are blue feathers about the rise of the wings; the hind part of the neck and back are brown, and the extremities of the feathers black; those on the shoulders are lighter, and variegated at the ends with black and white. The first and last covert feathers are black, but are white on their external edges; the long feathers of the wings are black, the edges of which are tipped with white; and the belly and breast are of a lovely pale rose colour. The tail, which is composed of twelve feathers, is a mixture of dusky and bright; the legs and feet are red, and the claws black.

PORCELAIN PIGEON.

There are many other species of Pigeons of which MOORE, MAYOR, or GIRTIN does not mention, viz., the Magpie, the common Runt, the Archangel, the

Porcelain, the Antwerps, &c. &c. The Magpie Pigeon resembles the Magpie in feather, from which it derives its name. The common Runts are as familiar with us as the House-Sparrow, which you will observe at a country inn on the road side when you stop to bait your horse, and kept on farms; it is somewhat different with the Archangel, they are not so common as the common Runts, but as regards head and beak, I think not superior; what the Fanciers intend doing with this bird I am at a loss to know, whether they intend to breed it down to the Tumbler's head and beak, or carry it out to the Carrier's head and beak, leaving it as they have found it, is not progressing; as it is, it will scarce bear looking at, except it is for its feather, which are such quiet colours. When I attended the sale of the late Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT'S Bantoms and Pigeons, Archangels were knocked down by the hammer at about three guineas per pair, the Fancier could not distinguish any properties in them but bad ones; therefore thought them worthless, and would not give them loft room. I received a basket of Pigeons from Ireland, and among them two Archangels, the one alive the other dead, from some cause; I thought of making a feeder of the cock, for my short-faced Almonds and black mottled Tumblers, but on reflection considered it too coarse, that it would wrench the beak, I caused it to be offered to the shops for sale, none of them would give more than a shilling or eighteen pence for it; I thought it more valuable at that time, and put it back into the cocks' loft; a country gentleman noticed it for its bronze feather, I mentioned to him if he would accept it. He accepted it. It was the first, and I believe will be the last, if it was possible that I could remain in the Fancy for the next fifty years, unless I became in my second childhood.

With regard to the Porcelain Pigeons, I never saw but one pair, black ground and most beautifully mottled; differently mottled to the black mottled Tumbler; they were in a basket, placed rather high and out of my reach, and writing from memory. The Fancier has his work to do if he intends to make it a valuable bird, and cause it to be admired by the gentlemen of the Fancy. The best thing I think he can aim at, is to cross it with a Carrier, and by perseverance, in time, to obtain the Carrier with its beautiful formed long-faced, straight narrow head with a dent in the centre, retaining its beautiful mottled plumage; unless this or something else be done with this bird, it will not be thought anything more of by good Fanciers than the Archangels. With regard to what there is in a name, I do not think that it is correct to suppose, that because a bird is called an Archangel that it must follow that it came from Russia; or a Pigeon is called an Antwerp, that it must of necessity be originally bred at Antwerp (more in its place when I come to give an account of the Antwerp Pigeon); for instance, if a captain of a vessel from California, or any of the new discoveries in South Australia, he being a little bit of a Fancier only about the edges, seeing Pigeons or something he thought had a resemblance to Pigeons, but something rather peculiar to Pigeons, the captain considering the vast amount of trouble he has had in bringing this pair of birds from Australia, is determined to get rid of them on the first opportunity; his vessel arriving at the London ports, and taking them into the best markets he is aware of, (say Leadenhall, for argument sake); when he has ascertained the highest price that the most respectable dealers will give him for this pair of birds, he hopes that God will forgive him if ever he attempts to bring another pair. A rickety or crotchety old gentleman, one of the olden times, passing through Leadenhall market, seeing and supposing that he knew some little about Pigeons, and it may be for ought I know, very little; nevertheless he purchases this pair of birds, having obtained them, he is bothered what to call them, but luck is always in the way of some men, and looking on his way home into a china shop, and seeing china spaniels and birds in china of different sorts, nothing so quick as thought, he stamps them and calls them Porcelain birds, simply and honestly at the same time from what he had witnessed at this china shop.

THE ANTWERP.

With regard to the Antwerp, I am bound to give you all the information I possess, however little that may be; it is a new bird, comparatively speaking: I believe very little was known of this bird in England until the great Match, when Mr. FRANCIS REDMAN, of the Borough, but now of the Swiss Cottage, Regent's Park, an acknowledged good Fancier, who tossed (as it is called by Fanciers) from off London Bridge, one hundred and ten of these birds (Antwerps), about one hundred reached home; there is not a doubt but that all of these birds had been severally trained by the Dutch fishermen, who bring their cargoes of Fish, &c. to Billingsgate market, and who are in the habit of practising these sharp Antwerps, as they are called. I believe that if all their sharp birds (that is the proper name) was practised and sold to the Cockney Fanciers of London, I firmly believe that nine out of ten would return to their home. Mr. GILES, of the firm of GILES & Co. of the celebrated bird shop, &c. &c. formerly of Mutton Hill, Clerkenwell, but now close by, having returned from Antwerp, &c. &c. after purchasing a large quantity of canary birds, gold fish, &c. &c. also a lot of Pigeons: it so happened that I was the first that saw the Pigeons, they looked as though they could eat me, (or like year-off larks in a store cage, when caught trammelling for brancher, or nestling sky-larks.) I picked fifteen out of the lot, and one was a very strong beautiful white owl, who unfortunately got out of the pen and went through a pane of glass like a brick-bat. I informed GILES of it; his answer was, That it would not stop till it reached Antwerp. I believe so, and so would you, if you had seen how it took the pane of glass; the other fourteen Antwerps I kept in the loft and trap; these wild devils (if I may be permitted to use such a term) for six weeks, whenever I went up into the loft, were always in the trap, appearing to me as looking out for a chance, providing opportunity would favor them during that time. Whenever I went into the loft where these birds were, they came about my eyes like brick-bats; I had often to put on my spectacles for preservation, for fear of their cutting my eyes out of the sockets of my head. I had enough of these birds confined, therefore I was determined they should fly. I went to work; as I supposed, very cunning; ordered ample food and water to be placed in the loft, that would supply them the next day, so as not to go into the loft to scare them away: my boy and myself agreeing at dark to let down the traps, and not going to see till candle-light next night: these Antwerp birds did fly with a vengeance; for, at candle-light next evening, although we had endeavoured to act very cunning, when we came to look for the Antwerps, there was two stopped; I presume, they were the most foolish. For instance, one of the lot of the celebrated Match that was thrown up at London Bridge was caught in Kent Street, Borough. In conversation one day with an excellent short-faced Fancier, I being desirous of obtaining information as touching the originality of this bird, not telling him that I was writing this book, I put the question to him, and asked, How the Antwerp was bred? He said, It was bred from two birds, and then crossed with the Antwerp; I stopped him, and asked him, How he got the Antwerp; this bothered him, he laughed heartily, acknowledged he was in a fix, and gave it up. I was no better; still determined, if possible, to give you some little account of this useful bird, went to Mr. GILES, who informed me a particular old acquaintance of his, a Yorkshireman, who went to Antwerp, married there, and kept an hotel; that he became an enthusiastic Pigeon Flyer, and had a place half as long as a street; whenever GILES was at Antwerp he put up at this hotel, and ascertained the way they obtained the Antwerp or sharp bird, was from the cross of their Owl and our English Dragon; there are other ways of breeding sharp or cunning birds, and that is by crossing the long-faced and long-flighted Beard over to the English Dragon, and their young over to the Owl. The Antwerp bird is such a marked bird, and the more ugly it is the better they perform their work—that is, of Flying; they have a high head (not like the Carrier) at the same time mousey, with a

down beak, like unto a man with a Roman nose ; they are of various colours, and one out of ten, more or less for argument, have a brighter than a pearl eye, as the Almonds have, for some few of the Antwerps have a pure clear white eye, not surpassed by any Pigeon we have. The Flying Fanciers of Antwerp care not a straw what the colour of the bird is, provided it will do execution in flying, and it is their opinion that the gravelly-coloured-eye bird, will perform more execution than the truly beautiful clear white eye, which some of these birds have : there is an erroneous notion with some Fanciers, who assert, that it is not an Antwerp unless it has a pearl eye. I have no doubt but you have heard, that, on the Continent, the people take as deep an interest in their extraordinary Flying Matches, as some people in this country take in Horse Racing. I dare not trust my memory, and now writing from memory, and not knowing where to inform you to look to authenticate my assertion, to the best of my belief, the account I am about to give you, is that in a grand match from some part of Spain to Antwerp, that some of these birds performed the distance of six hundred miles. It is possible you may have read the account as well as myself ; I have read of Pigeons doing two thousand miles ; I do not believe all I read. When I first came into the Fancy, and looking out for short-faced birds, and being at the late Mr. ATTWOOD'S, he, in conversation with some of the flying Fanciers, stated that Beards of five-eighths, was quite long enough to do Dover to London. I was pleased to hear this remark, for I thought I had dropped into the right shop, and should obtain some short-faced half-inch Almonds. I then asked him if he had got some short-faced Almonds, he said could I not see them ; to which I answered, No ; and had to come out of the shop as I went in. It was only last week that a friend of mine was informing me of some Squeakers doing Newmarket to London ; I spoke to him on the subject, he admitted they had thrown a feather, and they were Grunters instead of Squeakers. Reading Bell's Life, I often read of bets and matches at Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, and other places, for a home and home match, for four or five miles, the distance is nothing ; I admit the difference of a few seconds in which the winning bird does it. If you want a good home and home match, make a match from London and Birmingham, London and Sheffield, London and Manchester, or London and Liverpool, this would be something like a homing match ; but four or five miles is nothing, when you read the account of Beards of five-eighths doing Dover to London, or Grunters doing Newmarket to London ; every man has not the opportunities to train and practice his birds like others. I have known some most villanous things come to light in Fanciers trusting to others to toss their birds. The late Mr. SPICER, who formerly kept the Peacock at Islington, had great facilities over others in tossing birds ; formerly the coaches to Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, stopped at his house, and the coachmen and guards use to practice his birds for him ; still it is a great pity that these sharp, subtle, cunning birds, even if shop-keepers knew that one of these birds had performed a hundred miles, they would not give you more than sixpence or ninepence for it at most. I cannot help thinking but it is very disheartening to any one who keep these sagacious birds ; if I wanted to breed a cunning or sharp bird, I would get the best sky blue, with black bars across the flight, Dragon cock, and the best sky blue, with black bars across the flight, hen Owl, by this means you would get beautiful feathered sharp birds, if you get nothing else. It is possible you might have obtained the white eye from the long-faced Beard ; one thing I am certain of, the Owl shews itself very prominent in these birds, although there are a wonderful many mealy feathered birds called Antwerps, and some of them very pleasant to look at. I believe they are only half-bred birds, whereas, the genuine, as I would call it, right or wrong, blue or chequered Antwerp, that looks volumes at you, is the bird that accomplishes the work.

To the YOUNG and INEXPERIENCED FANCIER,

I cannot do better in closing this Work, than taking out some remarks in a letter, or letters, I have forwarded to my old schoolfellow, Mr. HENRY MAJOR, Geelong, Australia.

My dear Harry,

&c. &c. You will be surprised when you come to read what I am about to inform you; a short time prior to your leaving old England, that you loved, and you know made a promise and vow to your better half, provided circumstances would allow to come back, and lay your weary head low in old England, who, you said, "You loved with all its faults;" my prayer is, "God speed the Plough," with regard to your return to old England. I can assure you I shall rejoice to see you, and have another game at bagatelle, giving you, at the French game, two score, and the break as usual, although I have not played more than twice or thrice since you left England, owing to my time being so fully occupied with business, and what I am about to inform you. It is possible you can recollect when we were sitting in the back parlour, I shewed you a paper, I had headed it "Wisdom," and reasoned what I should gain or lose in the estimation of Fanciers in general, if I attempted a Work on Tame and Domesticated Pigeons; if you recollect the conclusion we came to, was, that I had every thing to lose and nothing to gain, therefore came to the determination to abandon the idea for ever, especially as I could not obtain my text, (JOHN MOORE'S Work, 1735); although it cost me many pounds one way and the other, to obtain the book, besides the great loss of time, for I searched every Bookseller North, East, South and West, besides advertising it several times through the different channels. Had I not seen and read the Work, I should not have believed there was such a Work. The Fancier to whom the Work belonged, used to say it was the only copy in the World; he promised me more than a year, he would lend it to me, (if he had, I made up my mind to have employed some one to have written it out before I returned it), but that he had lent it to a Fancier, and could not get it back.

Some time after you had sailed, 3rd of September, for Geelong, having two gentlemen to wait upon in town with the difference of about an hour and a half as to time; knowing by the time I arrived home, it would be time to start off again to wait upon the other; under these circumstances I thought I might as well loiter about as to work hard for nothing; being in a bookselling neighbourhood, the idea struck me I would try if possible to obtain Moore's work, by passing away the time, believing the booksellers with their immense old stock of books, and not having a methodical catalogue of their old books, and being busy at times, when a question is put to them without considering answer, No! I reasoned further, it is possible booksellers may not have a work to-day, but who knows to the contrary but they may have it to-morrow. I was determined to make good use of this one hour and a half surplus time on my hands, went into many bookshops, the answer I received was No! No! No! You must Hunt it up! I thought I had hunted it up, and the more I hunted it up as the booksellers called it, the further I was off the scent, for I believe I had applied at one thousand different places to obtain it, although it is possible you may say there is not one thousand booksellers near or about London. I know my labour in endeavouring to obtain this book, better than any one else can tell me; if you doubt what I say, try to obtain it.

Seeing two boys in deep conversation at an extensive second-hand or old book shop, I believe if I had asked one of them if he had MOORE on Pigeons, he would have said, No! (but I had my wits about me for the first and last time). I arrested both their attentions, by stating, I would stand a glass or a shilling's worth of brandy and water if he had got the book I wanted, and told the boy to consider before he

said, No! the two boys looked at each other, for I took them by surprise, "I think they smelled the brandy and water;" after a little consideration one of the boys went down a tremendous long shop (much longer than a short street) to his employer, who was at the back of the premises, who went and laid his hand upon a book; I saw the boy coming in the distance with a book in his hand, I thought it very likely it was something about Pigeons, but never thought it was MOORE's work; to my astonishment and delight it was the identical work I was in search of, having it in my hands, I thought my eyes would have darted out of the sockets of my head when I beheld the book, I moreover thought, "I'll be blessed if ever this book leaves my hands, whatever the price." I paid the price, the boy had his shilling for brandy and water, and no doubt all pleased with the transaction. Having yet time to the good, I went into a house, (called for a sandwich, and that which you never did like, a glass of bitter ale), and read the work through as far as regards Pigeons.

Afterwards I began to think upon the work, and recollecting that it contained so much matter that I had read before in other works, I was determined to see what amount of original matter belonged to each writer upon Pigeons, I, therefore, took MOORE's 1735, then MAYOR, 1765, and compared them as I read, interlined MAYOR's work, what I found in MOORE, that which was not interlined, I considered original matter, I adopted this plan with all the works that was in my possession, and I am not aware that there are any that I am not possessed of that is worth having; at all events, I never hear talk of any; and having JOHN BOYS, Esq.'s beautiful Observations and Reflections, derived from fifty years experience, the idea struck me of what use I would make of them, entertaining so high an opinion of the late JOHN MOORE's Work, and as I heard there was not another copy, and believing there could not be more than two or three copies in the world, I thought it a pity so valuable a work from which all others have grown out, should be lost for ever to the Pigeon Fancier, (for ought you and I know the book may have been stole from the gentleman to whom it was lent, and no wonder the Fancier could not get it back again, and that I purchased the work; I think if it was so, it is excusable, considering the use I intend making of the book). I thought I would publish the work entire, and give the original matter due to other authors, besides endeavouring to make a few remarks from observations, and as the ideas struck me, when my Almond Tumbler was printed, I regretted that I had not numbered the paragraphs, but it was too late then. I borrowed the idea from COBBETT's grammar to soldiers, sailors, and plough-boys, to paragraph this work. It will rather surprise you to see me state grammar, for you know, that I know as much about grammar as grammar knows about me, notwithstanding what my excellent father paid for my education.

When I brought out my Almond Tumbler, and read the manuscript over to you and WOLSTENHOLME, only two original ideas was added to the manuscript, the one, the villanous trick of breaking the upper mandible of the beak, when the bird is a few days old, so as to form a straight or up beak. But will these birds breed beaks like them?—Query. The other was the late SIR JOHN SEBRIGHT's remark, that he would breed feather in three years, but would take six years to breed head and beak; this was due to Mr. WOLSTENHOLME. Your labour was different, although you could not give me a single idea, that of transposing, you know some stated WOLSTENHOLME was the Author. Some little time back, a gentleman in the coffee-room, at THOMPSON's, the Fox Tavern, Islington Green, put the question to me in a loud and audible voice, whether Mr. did not assist me in the writing of my Almond Tumbler. I can assure you it awoke me up, and I thought, who next? I assured the gentleman (for he is a gentleman) that I did not know a Fancier of that name; but I think I know the Fancier to whom he alluded, who has only four letters in in his name, instead of five When I heard this I thought, what next! and came to the determination that this Work should go forth with all its faults—no doubt, which are many—without its being read over to any one, rather than be

nettled and stung by a few pismires. There may be good attending this, if these few will exercise their grammatical knowledge (or the want of it); then again, if they cast them up, it will improve them in their arithmetic. Should it require transposing, which it will no doubt, they can do with it as the cat does with the kitten—endeavour to lick it into liking. Why I should have taken notice of these few, that resembles the dog in the manger, that would not make an attempt to write themselves (to instruct the young and inexperienced Fancier), found fault with me for attempting; besides stating they did not believe I had the ability to write my Almond Tumbler. Will these few believe now what they read, and exercise their abilities upon it, or will they attempt, after my weary head is laid low, in a cowardly lying way, lay claim to the Work, on Tame and Domesticated Pigeons, as being the Author, or having aided or assisted me in any way. Let them come forward in my life-time, not after I am dead, that I may be able to prove to the contrary; but enough of this.

Just as I am beginning to wax warm, and getting my pen in order—besides feeling myself as pleased, not as a Tom Tit upon a round of beef, but as a Titty-mouse with a hemp seed—the Printer sent me some sheets to read over, I was somewhat surprised when my eye caught the high figure of the Page (80), and that it was time to bring the Work to a close; calling upon the Printer to know why they were so long over it, they said it was heavy work and that there was three Compositors upon it, this tickled my Vanity, that in my leisure time I could write as fast as three Compositors could set up; which only proves that I had not much time to read over what I had put upon paper, although I stated, “Just as I was beginning to wax warm,” &c.; at the same time I can assure you I have not altogether experienced it a joke, on account of the unreasonable hours that I have devoted to it for the last month, not seeing my bed, except one day in the week, until two, three, four, and five o'clock in the morning. It has brought me very shaky, and having experienced, eighteen years back, a nervous irritability, I can assure you I am not desirous of experiencing another. Should I ever attempt another Work, which I do not know but I shall, I will endeavour not to be so foolish over it, and devote such unreasonable hours; you have often heard me say that seven days in the week was too long for me, and that in the hot weather I made fourteen days and fourteen nights, viz. by laying down on my bed for one hour after I had had my dinner; for there are two things I like to do, either to be asleep or awake; and if I dare trust my heart, I think I have an active mind, that must be engaged in something. It was better that it should be engaged in a Work like this, than in something worse, considering MOORE'S Original Work, from which all others have sprung out, was nearly for ever lost to the Gentlemen of the Fancy.

Under these circumstances, the idea struck me, that I would endeavour to contribute my mite in rescuing the Work from the hands of rude Old Time, and hand it down for some years yet to come to my Brother Fanciers, believing no other Fancier had the intention. I am fully as sensible as you are, that when you come to read the Work over, you will discover inelegancies of ideas. I believe, had you been in England, I should have read the Work over to you, you knowing it would not do to dub you as the Author. But then, the Unmerciful Pruning Knife! that you are so fond of. You will have ample opportunity to exercise it in Australia, which you will not here, upon my Work. I am aware if it was possible, if I had time to read it over myself, I could transpose and improve it, but I have my work to do to keep a-head of the Compositors. The style in which I should have liked best to have brought it out, provided I had the abilities to imitate, was Dr. FRANKLIN'S “Poor Richard,” more than the powerful and accomplished reasoner LOCKE “On the Understanding;” as I cannot imitate either, I was compelled to make the best of my own Originality. Those knowing me and my ways, would say, “This is EATON All Over!” as many Gentlemen said who knew me, after reading my Almond Tumbler. To return to the Pruning Knife: you would have had “A Go-in! here,” provided I would have let you. It is

possible you can recollect, although we agreed to differ, we did not always agree in reading the Almond Tumbler over, owing to my obstinacy, which got your monkey and carbonic acid gas up, and although I never said so to you, I often said within myself (Harry don't "frown!") it is hard when a man gets his monkey up, at the same time to look exceedingly pleasant; excuse me here while I pour myself out a glass of wine, to drink your health, wishing you a very large measure of good luck. I mentioned to you that you would discover inelegancies, more than that, "rude ideas;" I was driven to that, to keep as near to my original ways, otherwise those that know my ways, would not have believed the animal wrote it. I am aware that it is not written after the style that MAYOR in his frontispiece has, which is taken from BAKER's Natural History. Curiosity and a fondness for novelty are implanted by Providence in the mind of man, to make him observe and examine things attentively; distinguish their various productions, form, and structure; and admire their beauties, properties, and use. Whilst he is doing this, he is improving his judgment, performing his duty and making himself happy.

It is my intention of concluding this Work, on Tame and Domesticated Pigeons, nearly with the same words I did my Almond Tumbler, p. 49, in the two last Paragraphs, which idea you was pleased with.

"There is a time for all things," as the wise man observed; and the time has now arrived for us to part; but in bidding you "good bye" for the present, (as it is not my intention of taking my farewell of you, as I did in the same paragraph of the Almond Tumbler, and then appearing so soon again before you on Tame and Domesticated Pigeons), allow me, my young Fanciers, to suggest.—Has the perusal of the foregoing pages been the means of making you a more ardent admirer of Fancy Pigeons? do you see fresh beauties while studying the properties of these admired birds? and, do you feel a determination to excel in this pleasing and intellectual study? If this is the effect it has produced on your mind, I shall consider myself fortunate in producing such a result; and I do most sincerely hope that you may experience as much pleasure and satisfaction as I have myself enjoyed.

Hoping that you may long enjoy this pleasure and the intercourse of intelligent and agreeable brother Fanciers, and that you may be able to exclaim, "Happy is the man that forsakes his vices, and becomes an enthusiastic admirer of the better sort of Fancy Pigeons," is the sincere wish of

JOHN M. EATON,

THE AUTHOR.

FINIS.

DEDICATED TO THE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED FANCIER
OF THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

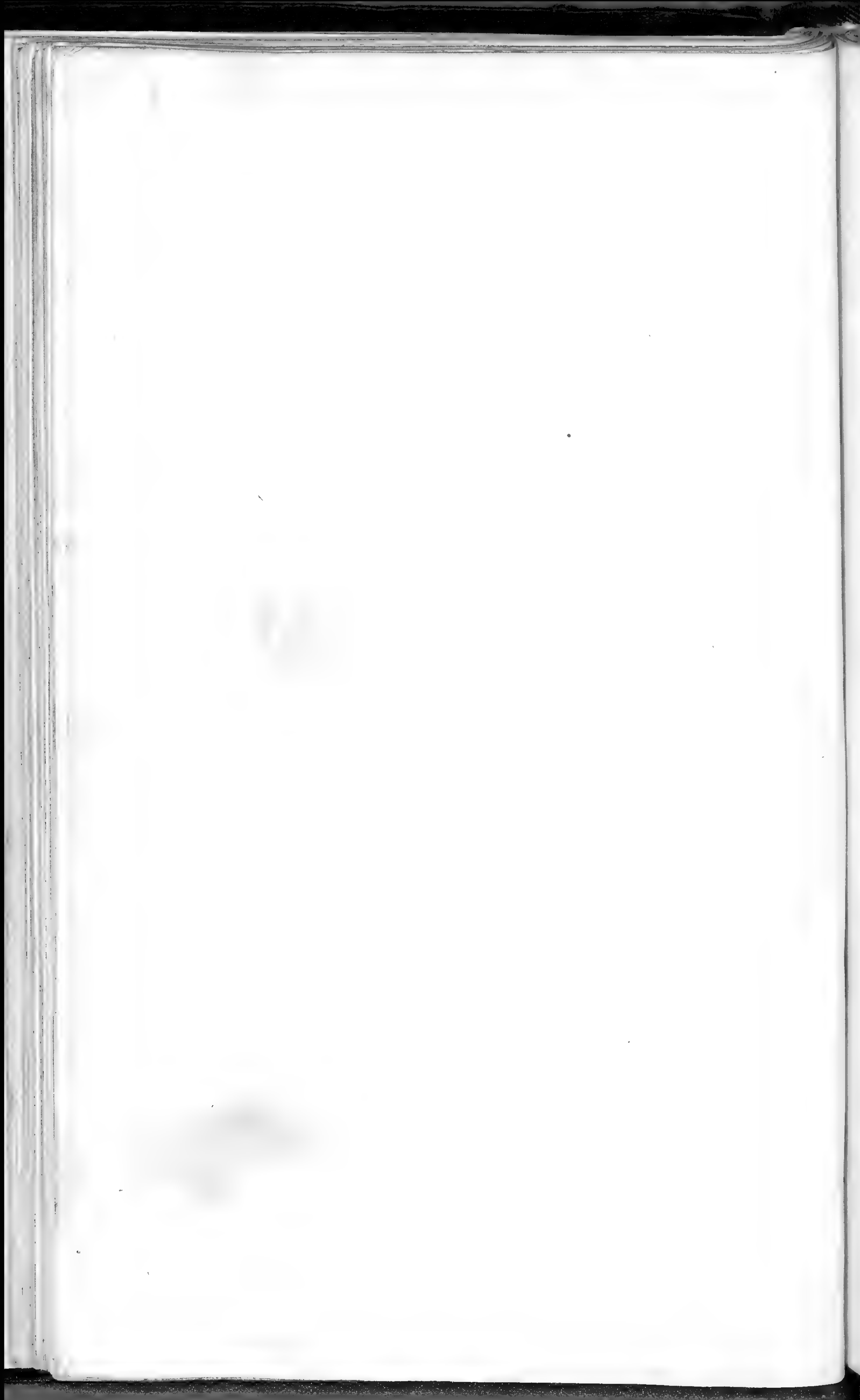
A
TREATISE
ON THE ART OF
BREEDING AND MANAGING
THE
ALMOND TUMBLER.

BY
JOHN MATTHEWS EATON

"All that a Man knows, or ever will know,
is by Observation or Reflection."
LOCKE.

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—
1851.



TO THE
YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED FANCIER
OF THE
ALMOND TUMBLER.

The study and science of the Almond Tumbler is productive of a great amount of pleasure, and in the present day there are many gentlemen of highly cultivated minds, have proved by their engagement in the breeding and rearing, sparing neither pains or expense, have fostered and cultivated, with the utmost care, this truly beautiful pigeon called the Almond Tumbler. That it is a science well worthy the attention of those who might be induced to engage in this delightful recreation or fancy.

My object in publishing this Treatise on the breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler, is to place it in the hands of the young Fancier, who is desirous of cultivating a knowledge, and endeavouring still further to improve their beauties; at the same time, I am fully sensible that there is not a copy of a work, worthy to be placed in the hands of the young Fancier, can be obtained without the utmost difficulty, owing to their being out of print. At one time I should have hesitated at the thought of writing upon so difficult a subject, for it requires a very nice judgment to form a true estimate of the Almond Tumbler; and, it must be confessed, they labour under the greatest disadvantage in not having their perfections and properties properly understood by the gentlemen of the Pigeon Fancy in general. Being fully aware of the great disadvantages that some of the young Fanciers residing in some parts of the country labour under, not having the advantages of attending societies and seeing and examining the birds that are put into the pens on show days, and joining in cheerful conversation with experienced Fanciers, who are both able and willing to instruct, by pointing out what are good properties and what are bad in a bird; under these circumstances this treatise will not be unacceptable to the young Fancier, provided he has made up his mind to be a Fancier and rank A. 1.; he must carefully read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest what is written in this treatise, to guide his judgment, for as there is no royal road to learning, so there is no possibility of gaining a thorough knowledge of the Almond Tumbler but from long study and experience.

I shall here endeavour to rivet, as it were, on the minds of those who will engage in this delightful study, some great facts; the first thing especially to be attended to, is the selection of really good birds—they should be young, healthy, vigorous, and bred from as pure and good a stud or strain as can be obtained. From the highly artificial state of the Almond Tumbler in the present day, there is a tendency to degenerate, or throw back, as it is termed in the Fancy. For even when good birds are put together, they do not invariably throw birds equal to those they are bred from; but if inferior birds are matched together, the produce must necessarily be unworthy the attention of a Fancier. Nonpareils will not always produce nonpareils, but nonpareils cannot be expected from inferior birds. Much attention and great care are necessary with these birds to insure success; especially if the young Fancier raises a standard in his mind to surpass those who have tried before him, and has made up his mind not to rank second best; but the satisfaction of producing the best bird must be very great, and will amply repay him for all the care and labour that has been expended.

There are many gentlemen now engaged in breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler, and the amateur has an opportunity of obtaining superior birds to commence with, and which is so indispensable to insure success. This he may do, by following the remarks made in this treatise, and the information he may obtain

among his brother Fanciers. The value of the birds, as usual with matters of taste, will depend much on the estimated qualities of the birds; and if they should be of extraordinary beauty and excellence in the five properties, the price will be proportionably high, as there are many gentlemen in the fancy who know how to appreciate a good bird, and do not hesitate to give a good price for it; therefore, you must not expect to obtain a bird for five pounds, that other fanciers would give ten pounds for.

I have now arrived at a difficult point, and that is how to instil the knowledge of a bird possessing good properties into the mind of the young Fancier when he sees it, and should he be anxious to purchase the bird, I should advise him to consider whether he really stands in need of the bird, and believes it will improve his stud or strain of birds, if so, buy it at any price, for it cannot be dear. From my experience, combined with the conversation of some of the best and most experienced Fanciers, the only way to obtain an extraordinary bird, is to give more than it is worth, comparatively speaking. The first time I attended a Grand Show, there was, as I thought, such a particularly pretty neat looking pair of birds, nothing gaudy about them; they appeared so remarkably neat and quiet, that the thought struck me of Friends or Quakers; I became anxious to obtain this pair of birds, and seeing the gentleman to whom the birds belonged, I politely asked him if he considered it a fair question whether he would part with them, and he as politely, said he would as he was desirous of bringing as many gentlemen into the fancy as possible, and would favor me being a young and inexperienced Fancier, and the price would be five pounds; he greatly astonished me when he uttered "five pounds," for if he had said five shillings, I think at that time I should have had spirit enough in me to have offered four shillings and sixpence; but since then, I have had the honor of that gentleman's acquaintance, have been repeatedly in his aviary, and seen the pair of birds I am writing of, and after having acquired some knowledge of the Almond Tumbler, my experience has taught me that the birds were worth more money than he had asked; for, in fact, they were a pair of extremely short faced and beautiful Golden Duns, bred from a splendid pair of Almonds, but I was at the time too inexperienced to know it; and here I would particularly caution the young Fancier, on entering the societies where the shows take place, not to give offence to any of its members, by asking what do you want for that bird? you would be treated with contempt and not get an answer, for you might as well ask some gentlemen to part with half their fortunes, as a bird they highly estimate. But there are ways of doing things without giving offence, and I think the best way to put the question to the owner of the bird, is politely to ask him, whether he considers it a fair question, if he would part with the bird, and then you will receive a polite answer.

The best and cheapest bird I ever bought cost me five pounds, why I say the cheapest, is, because I bred twelve young ones from him, and all good birds. I have given more, and know some gentlemen that have given still higher prices than myself, and I saw a few evenings since, at one of the societies, a Pigeon, the gentleman to whom it belonged, stated he would not take twenty pounds for it. But to return to the young Fancier, I would advise him to purchase good birds, and, if he is acquainted with experienced Fanciers, to solicit their assistance in obtaining birds that will be serviceable to him; if, on the other hand, he would rather trust to his own judgment, all I can say, is, I wish him luck, for it will prove a lottery, as the most experienced Fanciers have acquired their knowledge with care, trouble, and expense; neither can the young and inexperienced expect to escape unscathed, till time and experience shall improve his eye, and mature his judgment.

This bird is called the "Almond Tumbler" by the gentlemen of the Fancy; in my researches I have traced it back to the year 1735, and as the gentlemen of the Fancy have assigned this name to this truly beautiful bird, after a mature consideration I think it would be injudicious to alter it, for if a meeting of all the

Almond Tumbler Fanciers was called together, I very much question whether any one of them could assign a better name. For what is it that we Fanciers allow to constitute the Almond Tumbler, the three colors, black, white, and yellow, variously and richly interspersed; but the greatest difficulty, amounting almost to an impossibility, is to obtain a rich bright yellow, nevertheless the ardent and indefatigable young Fancier should strive to reach the standard, authorized by the gentlemen of the Fancy, namely black, white and yellow, and in his efforts to obtain yellow will produce a rich almond colour usually called the ground, and from which the bird derives its name. There are three colors in the bird, and it would be folly to find a new name for it, as the oldest and best informed Fanciers are of opinion that a better name could not be found, and shows the good sense of the Fanciers centuries ago. I sincerely hope the name of the bird will for ever be set at rest, as it is known by the name in every clime where the English tongue is spoken, as the "Almond Tumbler." It will not be my fault, should the old and experienced Fancier happen to make a mistake, and sit in judgment upon this Work, or become severely critical, for comparatively speaking, I am but a young Fancier, my object is a pure one in publishing this treatise, that it may find its way into the hands of the young and inexperienced; the idea struck me that I might give him my experience, from actual observation and reflection; but for a better and more experienced Fancier than myself, to suppose for one moment, that I had the audacity to endeavour to instruct him, "is his mistake—not mine," as I sincerely hope that I am entirely free from such intention.

But a person not acquainted with the beauties of this study or science, should not take upon himself the character of judge, and condemn a study or science of which he is utterly ignorant; should he make his remarks freely, they would most probably be characterised by a gross want of information, and only meet with that contempt which they deserved. I am fully aware there are gentlemen who cannot see any beauty in Pigeons, except in a pie, "these are Belly Fanciers"; and, although very numerous, with these I shall have nothing to do.

That it is an innocent amusement and recreation, well adapted to the professional gentlemen of law, physic, and divinity, or any other person engaged in long continued and excessive exertion of the intellectual faculties. The relief this delightful recreation gives is truly astonishing, by unbending the mind after close and intent application to abstruse subjects; for the mind of man is incapable of constant application either to study or business, and it is therefore highly necessary to relieve it. I am of opinion that many of the brightest luminaries that have suddenly been lost to society, would not have been so, had they been engaged in this Fancy, by way of recreation or relief to the mind. I have known some very old gentlemen in the Fancy, but never yet knew a Fancier that was troubled with hypochondriasis.

There is nothing so base as ingratitude, and I cannot allow it to pass over without calling upon the young Fanciers to join me in acknowledging the debt of gratitude we owe to the old and experienced Fanciers of past ages, for handing down to us young Fanciers such a beautiful strain of birds to commence with; for when we reflect for a moment, that these beautiful birds were originally produced from the common Pigeon, and when you consider that at one time the beak should not exceed seven-eighths of an inch, (meaning the distance from the iris, or circle round the pupil of the eye, to the end of the quick on the beak.) Now if the beak was limited to seven-eighths of an inch, which I presume was considered short at that time, what is the length it might not have run out to! and this is another proof of the debt of gratitude we owe, as I said before, to the old and experienced Fanciers, and in a most especial manner to the gentlemen of the Columbarian Society, who have had so great a share for the last hundred years in bringing the Almond Tumbler to the standard it has now arrived at. And now, my young Fancier, with these great advantages on your side at your commencement, I hope and trust by your spirit, attention, and perseverance, you will still more contribute

to increase its beauties and perfections. I will endeavour to stimulate and cheer you on, by informing you that the most experienced and accomplished Fancier that ever lived at one time, knew no more about the Almond Tumbler than the Almond Tumbler knew about him, or the little knowledge you are in possession of, provided you know any thing of the Almond Tumbler; and here I will tell you another great fact, and that is, that the field is still as open for fresh competitors now, as it was one hundred years ago. I am fully sensible that there are among the Fanciers, gentlemen infinitely more able in every sense of the word, being more experienced and having more leisure time, therefore could have produced a better Treatise on the subject of the Almond Tumbler than I shall be able to do, but, from some cause or other they have not thought fit so to do; at the same time I must keep in view the expence of the Work, so that it shall not be beyond the reach of the humble Fancier. Prudence has dictated to me to address my work to the young and inexperienced, being fully sensible that I was incompetent to offer remarks to the old and experienced Fancier; but, I believe, that the young Fancier may, with advantage to himself, digest every remark in this Treatise.

There is another consideration that has flashed across my mind, to accelerate my work, so as to be able to bring it out by the first of May, when all the people in the world, comparatively speaking, are striving to produce something that will be acceptable to those who take an interest in those subjects that come nearest and dearest to their hearts; and as I have not heard of any Fancier's intention to produce a similar Treatise at the time of the Great Exhibition, when "all the World will be our country, and doing good our Religion," I was determined to offer my mite on such an auspicious occasion. When we consider the deep interest that the most illustrious Prince and Consort of the best Sovereign that ever graced the British Throne, takes in the Exhibition, surely it would be unpardonable in us Fanciers to let the present opportunity pass away, without endeavouring to throw in our mite or offering. It is well known that there are beautiful Pigeons at the Aviaries at Windsor, and I have heard it stated that Napoleon was a Pigeon Fancier. However, it is one thing to have Pigeons, but quite another thing to understand them. If it was possible for noblemen and gentlemen to know the amazing amount of solace and pleasure derived from the Almond Tumbler, when they begin to understand their properties, I should think that scarce any nobleman or gentleman would be without their aviaries of Almond Tumblers, and which would form a splendid ornament in their beautiful gardens or grounds. Having wandered a little, I will return again to my more immediate subject; it is with Fanciers as with others, that they do not exactly think alike upon some of the points or properties; all that is wanted is honesty. If those great and eminent ministers, Whitfield and Wesley, after a college education could not exactly agree upon the same text, is it surprising that you and I should not exactly agree upon the remarks we may make from our experience derived solely from actual observations, taking the Almond Tumbler as our text; but one thing is certain, provided we are Fanciers in the true acceptance of the word, we must go hand in hand upon the five properties, allowing each of us to choose our favorite point of property; for which of the five properties could we part with in producing a good bird—it is absolutely necessary to have the five properties to constitute a really good bird.

That the Almond Tumbler may be improved beyond what it has hitherto been, —that new beauties may be discovered, and a higher standard taken as the beau ideal of each amateur,—and that it may as far exceed the present standard, as that which is now looked up to does that of half a century back,

Is the sincere and hearty wish of a brother Fancier,
Who has devoted time, care, and attention to the subject,

7, ISLINGTON GREEN,
LONDON.

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

May 1st, 1851.

A
TREATISE
ON
BREEDING AND MANAGING
THE
ALMOND TUMBLER.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD.

FEATHER.

Imagine to yourself, taking into your aviary or loft some inexperienced friends who have expressed a great desire to see some Almond Tumblers, what would be the first thing that would attract their attention, Feather would strike some—Shape or Carriage would rivet the attention of others; but if, on the contrary, you took experienced Fanciers into your aviaries or lofts, and asked them which they considered the grandest property of the five, my impression is that they would say, Shape or Carriage; nevertheless, it is my intention in giving a description of the five properties to take Feather first; not that I consider feather the grandest property of the five, but from the bird deriving its name from the feather, and from the rich and variegated colours striking the eye of the general observer.

It is the decided opinion of all Fanciers, that the ground or foundation of the feather should be, strictly speaking, a rich bright yellow, but the difficulty to obtain it, and intermix, split or break the yellow feather with a decided black, I think is scarcely attainable: a fact, that has been established by many careful and oft repeated experiments by the most able Fanciers that have ever lived; we must, therefore, be content with having the ground of the bird a rich bright almond colour, but the inside of the shell of the almond nut is the best colour, and the oldest Fanciers are unanimous in opinion that this beautiful and very valuable species derived its name—"Almond," because the ground of the bird is, or should be, a rich bright almond colour.

The standard authorised or laid down by the Columbarian Society, as regards the Feather, is as follows, three colours, namely, black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from their extremities, and twelve in the tail; the aforesaid three colours well developed would constitute a standard, but the back, breast, and rump, should be likewise variegated to be complete in feather; the hackle or neck feathers should be bright and well broken with the same colours, and should resemble the delicate touches of the pencil of a fine artist.

There are gentlemen in the Fancy who have asserted, that they have had some so truly beautiful and spangled, that have had few feathers in them but what have contained the three colours that constitute the Almond—black, white, and yellow, variously and richly intermixed; and that after breeding them a considerable time, rejecting those that ran from feather, and judiciously matching the good feathered ones together, have brought them to such great perfection, that they should have been surprised to have bred any others than Almonds. There are some so magnificently elegant in feather that their flight, tail, back and rump, have resembled a bed of the finest and best broken tulips that can be imagined, or a piece of the best and most highly polished tortoiseshell, for the more they are variegated, particularly in the flight and tail, provided the ground be yellow or a

rich bright Almond, through hackle, shoulder, and rump, the whole to be equally spangled and broken with black and white, the more they are esteemed; but the yellow is a colour most difficult to attain.

SHAPE OR CARRIAGE.

The Almond Tumbler ought to be a very small Pigeon, and the more diminutive the better, provided it maintains its other noble properties boldly, and, which is essential to constitute a good bird, for the more snug and compact, the more they are appreciated, and the more the value of the bird is enhanced. It should be very short in the back, and the lower it stands the better, with small round body, but particularly with a fine prominent full and extremely broad, or, as the Fanciers term it, a square chest, the lower the neck the better, and should be shorter than any other Pigeon, with a particularly thin or slim neck, and beautifully curved under the throat and thrown back, the shorter the flight and tail feathers the better.

It is my opinion that shape or carriage is the grandest property in the Almond Tumbler, and would be one of the best criterions to judge of a bird coming from a good stud, for as I observed before, there is a tendency in the Almond Tumbler to degenerate or throw back in some of their properties, notwithstanding being bred out of the very best strain of birds; for on examining an Almond Tumbler, should some of its properties run out as expressed by Fanciers, yet the bird still maintaining shape and carriage, are evident proofs of its coming from a first-rate stud of birds.

The shape or carriage of most things living is the most beautiful property, save the mind, and to my fancy I am not aware that there is anything under the Sun, or that you can imagine or conceive, that is so truly beautiful and elegant in its proportion or symmetry of style, as the shape or carriage of the Almond Tumbler approaching perfection, in this property, (save lovely woman) and has been most happily selected as the emblem of beauty, tenderness and affection, and is depicted as the appropriate attendant of Venus.

HEAD.

The head should be as broad as possible, and not only broad, but as high and lofty as possible, and not only broad and lofty, but at the same time should be as round as possible, like a marble. It should have a good dig, chop, or stop, or any other technical term that the Fanciers understand and are pleased to call it. The front of the head should appear as it were overhanging a portion of the beak, at that beautiful part of the bird, which in the estimation of the best Fanciers is not excelled by any. I allude to that grand point, the stop, in front of the head, or more properly speaking, under the head; the feathers forming the front of the head should make a dead stop, and above all things not run in a slanting direction into the wattle on the beak, which is a defect, and is called a needle point. Looking at the head in front, should it happen to present an angular or slanting direction towards you, it is called by the gentlemen of the Fancy thin-faced or mousey; it is one of the greatest imperfections that a bird can possibly have, and is the very opposite of a round head and quick stop. There are but few birds comparatively speaking that have these beautiful dead and decided stops, and still further to add to the beauty and finish of the head, the feathers under the eye and about the lower jaw should be full and a little curved upwards, which is called "muffy." For a broad lofty round headed bird with a good stop, is in a fair way to be considered a wonder, and more particularly so by the head and beak Fanciers, who constitute at least three-fourths of the Almond Tumbler Fanciers. To produce a bird as above described, some of the gentlemen of the fancy have said it has been the work of a season, and have considered themselves amply rewarded.

But there are other gentlemen in the Fancy, who have asserted that head and beak is to be produced at any time. "Any time" is rather hard to define, but, if

they mean the longest time, then they are right, but on the contrary, if they mean the shortest time, then they are decidedly wrong; nothing is easier than to assert a thing, but they would experience the difficulty, if they attempted to produce head and beak.

For, SIR JOHN SEBRIGHT said he would produce any given feather in three years, but it would take him six years to obtain head and beak.

BEAK.

The beak of a first-rate Almond Tumbler ought not to exceed five-eighths of an inch, and it would be infinitely better, if it was possible, to breed them that they did not exceed half an inch, from the iris of the eye to the point, or more properly speaking, to the end of the quick on the beak. I repeat again, if it was possible to have them so short faced, as it is termed by Fanciers. It is possible for a bird to be considered a pleasant or neat bird, even at three quarters of an inch, but exceeding that length must be looked upon as unworthy of attention. The beak should run in a straight line from the head, be extremely fine and pointed; I have some in my aviaries that have astonished me, nor could I have believed it possible that the beaks could have been so fine, had I not have witnessed it myself; but there are beaks on birds apparently short, that has no more style in them than your thumb nails. There are many of the first-rate Fanciers, who are particularly partial to what is called the goldfinch beak, which is very beautiful; others say, take a full size round cherry, then take a barley corn, and judiciously placing and thrusting it into the cherry, form as it were your beak, and that is not all, for it will form a good head and beak, provided, as I said before, it is judiciously done; others take an oat, but as I think the goldfinch beak the handsomest, I would advise the inexperienced Fancier to get the head of a goldfinch and keep it by him for his observation.

The wart or wattle on the beak should be very fine and as little of it as possible, resembling as it were a thread drawn across the beak, and where this fineness of wattle can be obtained it adds greatly to the beauty of the bird, and a sure mark of its being well bred, besides giving the appearance of a more decided stop.

THE EYE.

The brighter and more prominent the better, like the eye of a fish, (take for example the bright eyed Perch,) and it is the general opinion among the Fanciers, that the eye should be fixed in the centre of the head. I will here endeavour to show you what would apparently give the appearance of a loftier, broader, and less "behind the head,"—suppose, for argument sake, that the head was an inch perfectly round, divide the one inch into sixteen equal parts, and if you place the eye one sixteenth more or less below the centre of the head, the more lofty headed the Almond Tumbler will appear, or the reverse; and the same holds good if the eye is placed back in the head, giving the head a broader appearance in front, and less "behind the head," which is opposite to what is called "duck-necked," by the Fanciers; but the effect is still greater where the beak is found placed low on a round headed Almond Tumbler, for it gives that truly beautiful and striking stop, which is not eclipsed by any other portion of the bird, and which is held in such high estimation by the best Fanciers.

The eye should be free from a thick skin or flesh around it, which to Fanciers is a great defect, a beading may look very pretty on a miniature frame, but is the very reverse to the eye of the Almond Tumbler; the eye should be feathered close to the edge and the more bright and silvery or pearl coloured the iris of the eye is the better.

THE HEN.

The Hen is inferior to the Cock in some of the properties and superior in others, which I shall endeavour to shew; and it is with the Almond Tumbler as with most other birds, that the male is more impudent and audacious, coarser in his looks, beak, and wattle, the Hen is more delicate, finer in her beak and wattle, and though generally a more spare appearance, comes very little short in shape or carriage. She is smaller than the cock, which is an advantage. The cock and hen are equal as regards the eye; that is to say, the eye of the male is not more wicked than the females; but with regard to feather, the cock has a deal more ground, more break or variegation in his flight and tail feathers; although there are hens equal in feather to the cocks, they are very few, they are the exception to the rule. Should it so happen that two birds possessing the five properties, namely, head, beak, eye, carriage, and feather, equally alike, I have no hesitation in saying that the hen is worth double the money of the cock. There are hens in feather that come up to the standard of the cock, but, as I observed before, they are the exception, and not the rule, being very scarce and not quite so brilliant in feather.

MATCHING OR PAIRING.

There are several things here to take into consideration; the first would be, how many pairs of birds you intend to match up? What is the temperature of your aviary or loft? How are you circumstanced for room? The reason why I ask how many pairs you intend to match up is this, if you intend only matching a few pairs, and have ample room for them, then match them by the beginning of March, or should the place be warm, then the middle of February; but if you match up forty pairs, as I have done, and require the birds to keep the pennis you assign them, then match up the first of February, as you will experience much trouble and it will take considerable time before you can get the birds steady to the places you have assigned them.

The first or second round of eggs, as it is termed by the Fanciers, seldom produce anything, owing to their being thin-shelled, soft or lush eggs. Should they break or destroy their eggs, it is necessary either to give them addled or bone eggs, made on purpose, and make them set their time, if possible, and then it is absolutely necessary to give them a young one to feed off their soft food, which they will generally do in a week or ten days; there is a great difference in their feeding, some feed well, whilst others, comparatively speaking, will not feed at all. I said it was absolutely necessary to make them set their time and feed off their soft food, otherwise they will only lay soft shelled eggs, and that so frequently through the breeding season, that you will ruin the constitution of the hens for ever.

On the knowledge you possess of matching and shifting will depend your success as an Almond Fancier; these are the two grand secrets or great facts—the first, to produce it; the second, to raise. It is needless for me to tell you, that you must first breed a good bird before you attempt to raise it, consequently I shall endeavour here to assist you, how to breed a good bird. I stated in a former part of this work, that you have no right to expect a Wonder or Nonpareil from inferior birds. Fanciers widely differ in their attempts to breed a good bird; there are some Fanciers that would sacrifice every other property in a bird to obtain head and beak, by matching the two best head and beak birds in the aviary or loft, while there are others, sacrificing the other properties to obtain feather, this is the cause of our observing such good head and beak birds, but running from feather; on the contrary, those Fanciers who sacrifice every thing for feather, breed birds with beautiful feather, but they run out in head and beak. Fanciers, in looking at good head and beak birds, will tolerate the bird and overlook feather; but if it was the best feather possible to obtain and ran out in the head, thin-faced

or mousey, the remark many of the Fanciers would make, as I have heard it observed, they would give ten pounds provided the bird was as good in head and beak as it was in feather.

There are some of the young Fanciers who are over covetous, who go for all the five properties at once, they have their reward by getting nothing; others breed to a feather, but they forget to say what feather. I will here mention a case to show the uncertainty of breeding to a feather, as it is called; the best pair of Almonds—cock and hen, extra good in all properties, that I ever possessed, keeping them matched together for three years, bred three beautiful almond cocks, two kite hens, yellow and red whole feather, yellow and red agates, all coming from the same pair of birds. Is this what they call breeding to feather? Now, if this pair of Almonds had bred all the young-ones as near alike for feather as they did head and beak, then that would be nearer breeding to feather. I will give you another instance that occurred, I matched up a beautiful head and beak splash cock to a rich kite hen, and in the same nest or round, produced two young ones—the one pure white, the other as black as a coal; I thought this breeding to feather with a vengeance. The inexperienced Fancier may say, that they did not come from a good stud of birds; when he knows more he will say less, for I question very much whether he ever will be able to obtain such birds as I am writing of.

Counteraction is a grand thing to be observed, but this must have its limits; for it would be unwise to match up a bad cock to an extra good hen, for if you split the difference in their young, you make half-and-half of them; "Half-and-half" may be very good to a Fancier on a long dusty road and his throat parched with thirst, when he comes up to a Pig and Whistle Shop, and can get nothing better, but half-and-half Almonds will not do for the Fancier, besides throwing away the use of the hen for the season. A gentleman, a member of the original Columbarian Society, to whom we owe so much, stated, that the best Almond supposed ever to have been bred was bred from a white agate cock and kite hen; but we are not to consider this surprising, for the agate cock and kite hen, for ought we know, may have had the blood of the Almonds, in a direct line for the last hundred years; and do not Fanciers, who say they cannot have too much of a good thing, match up the most plum puddingy Almonds, as they call it, cock and hen; and do they always throw Almonds? certainly not, but all colours in feather, such as rich kites, duns, yellows, reds, whole feathers, and agates. These birds having the blood of the Almonds, and coming from good feathered Almonds, as far as you are able to ascertain; if you are acquainted with their pedigree, so much the better; these young birds, being judiciously matched, are as likely to throw Almonds, as the Almonds themselves; and there are some of the best and most experienced Fanciers express it as their opinion, that the amazing power of the Almond Tumbler to throw all shades of colour—whole feather, agate, splash, broken, or spangle, is one of the chief causes that keep Fanciers so long in the fancy; propels or induces the Almond Fancier to persevere, owing to the uncertainty of throwing the feather; for, as they observe, if it was reduced to a certainty, the zest would be lost; and, as I observed before in another part of this work, that the Almond Tumbler Fancy is as open now for fresh competitors, as it was a century ago. There are Fanciers who condemn me, and say that I match up too high for feather; be this as it may, I am one of those who think we cannot have too much of a good thing, and may be rewarded like the man who reasoned,—“That if a little physic was good, what must a great deal be?” why, do every thing but what it was intended to do. The Fancier may draw his inference, that I am a Head and Beak Fancier, and despise Feather, I am a great admirer of Head and Beak, but am not insensible to Feather; for, as I observed before, which of the five properties could we afford to lose? and is not feather a grand property?

It unfortunately sometimes happens that on exhibiting a bird on a grand show night among the Fanciers, that if the bird possesses four good properties out of the five, namely:—head, beak, eye, and carriage, but should fall short in feather, a

"Feather Fancier" would remark the deficiency of feather, apparently overlooking the four other properties; nevertheless do not lose your command of temper, but do as I have done this season, provided the strength of your aviaries and lofts will allow you to pick out of seventy pairs of birds as mine will, match up expressly six pairs of the best feather, and most likely to throw feather, you will probably be in a condition to challenge them to show for feather.

I will be very brief in touching on the delicate subject of exhibiting a bird as their own, although borrowed from another, for my own part I would as soon challenge all England to show a bird, as some, (very few I hope in the Fancy,) who would make a bet to show a bird of their own breeding, and then borrow the best bird they could procure for the occasion; I sincerely hope as I stated before that this rarely occurs, but it has occurred. If you fall in challenging all England, you fall nobly, but if you are outwitted by a trick, you fall ignominiously. And while I am treading on this delicate ground, in an especial manner I would call upon the young Fancier that if ever you are placed in a position, not the most pleasant in the science of the Almond Tumbler, I allude to that of being appointed one of the umpires, let honesty and integrity be as the breath of your soul, and if there is no doubt on your mind that the two birds are equal, wash your hands as it were of the responsibility, provided you are not already outvoted by calling in another umpire or referee, and, above all things, err rather from want of judgment than design, for be assured the eyes of the Fancier would be upon your decision, and should your decision be manifestly partial, you will bring down the detestation of the whole Fancy upon you, and be stamped with infamy to the end of your days.

It might appear to you that I would almost write anything rather than grapple with the subject of matching and pairing the birds, I thought it would not be amiss to go into my aviaries to see how I had matched my birds, and found that I had nearly matched them all manner of ways, with the exception of head and beak, so that I cannot exactly recommend you to the matching from my own aviaries; it is better to have ten pairs of good birds well-matched, than fifty pairs by counteraction. Match up your aviary or loft of birds, commencing with your best cock and hen, and going down till you come to birds that you do not approve of, then discard them. I do not pretend to instruct you how to breed any given feather in the Almond, for after all, feather is only one property out of five, therefore, it is absolutely necessary to guard the other properties in producing an extra bird. It is possible that you may have a cock, so undeniably good in all the five properties, or particularly in feather, head and beak; and if it was possible that you had a hundred hens, you might exclaim that you had not a hen good enough, in head and beak to match over to him, and at last be driven to match a kite hen, simply because they often run better in the head and beak than the Almonds. The kite hen has the advantage over the dun hen, by producing better sound black. The dun hen will produce a more yellow and soft ground, and will not produce such good black in flight, tail and spangle, but appear smokey or dunnish, unless the cock is amazingly strong in feather. Good sound whole feather Almond bred Hens, with their rumps extra covered, namely: kites, duns, reds, or yellows, give a sound foundation or ground, and by matching them over to an Almond or Splash cock, you stand a great chance of breeding an Almond or Splash, and an Almond or Splash hen may likewise be matched to whole-feather sound Almond bred cocks; but I think it is absolutely necessary that the black feather should be visible either in the cock or hen. It is possible that two whole-feather Feather birds may throw Almonds or Splashes, but I think it is dangerous to try it, unless you are destitute of a bird, that would be more suitable, it is then better to buy a bird.

I cannot help thinking but that the ground of the Almond Tumbler, generally speaking, has greatly improved in the last few years, being more yellow. I say generally, for the gentlemen of the original Columbarian Society, always had good feathered birds, but there were other Fanciers who had not: although it was agreed that the feather should be black, white, and yellow; some appeared as

though the ground, flight, and tail feathers, were red, instead of yellow, and the black an olive; these are called too deep in colour, and may be called mahogany birds; but then there is another description of birds, such as is called bred too high for feather; it is easy to say to high for feather, and another thing, what you mean by it, do you mean to say that too deep colour bred bird, and the too high bred bird is the same thing? Certainly not; the effect shows itself when we produce a number of white or white agate young birds, that we certainly have matched the birds too high for feather, and too much blood in them, as it is called; but if on the contrary, you should happen to breed an Almond, it is generally an extra feathered bird. It cannot be reduced to a certainty how to breed for feather, but if a Fancier is very desirous of breeding for feather, I do not know that he could accomplish his object better than by matching an Almond cock, which is bred very high for feather, black, white, and yellow, but the black particularly good and strong, over to a rich golden dun hen, bred from two Almonds; the reason why I say that the black in the cock should be particularly good and strong, is, that while the dun is proverbial in softening a hard feathered Almond cock, and giving a beautiful and soft yellow or Almond ground, fails in producing the black. I am not aware of any match that is likely to throw better feather, provided as I said before, that the black is good, but it almost amounts to an impossibility to intermix a decided black with a rich bright yellow; there are many gentlemen of the Fancy, who know what a good black is, but I am fearful have not paid that attention to ascertain what is good yellow.

Now that I am writing on black and yellow, let us endeavour to illustrate or define it, and I think you could not do better than thus: suppose a grand show open to all England, to produce the best standard Almond Tumbler, and the two gentlemen Fanciers appointed umpires in a room by themselves, the birds being handed in for admissibility, the standard being black, white, and yellow, they have agreed in passing two birds at first sight into the penn, which are to be examined again prior to their being shown for the prize; another bird is now handed in, which is a standard bird, but is objected to by one of the umpires, and the other asks upon what grounds—the answer he received that it is not a jet or good black, that it is a faint, smoky, bad black; then the other umpire insists upon good yellow, and goes to the penn to examine the two birds that had passed to be re-examined, and declares them disqualified for showing, the other umpire requires the cause, and is answered that the ground of the bird, also the flight and tail is nearer a red than a yellow, and as the one would not pass a faint black, neither would the other pass a reddish bird for yellow.

To return to the matching of the rich Almond cock and golden dun hen, if on the contrary, the same cock was matched over to a good kite hen, they would throw in better black, at the same time producing more kites, it may be Almond and Kite in each nest. I think you will not be wrong even in matching up a Spangled or good Splash cock to a sound bright whole-feather hen, Almond bred, namely—duns, kites, reds, yellows, or even red and yellow mottled agate Almond bred birds, and reversing it with the hens and cocks. Not knowing how to produce a given feather myself, I experience the difficulty of instructing you, but I think what I have stated are the best rules to lay down, and it will assist you if you know how the birds have been bred; at the same time it is encouraging to the young Fancier, that he may come into the Fancy and throw a bird for feather from an agate cock and kite hen, with the most experienced Fancier, still, feather is but one property out of five.

OF LAYING.

Much will depend on the state of the weather; should it be mild or warm, the hens will begin to lay in about a week after matching. I have very little opinion of those eggs that come very soon after matching; on the contrary, I have experienced greater success with the eggs that have come later. Make them a

good nest of soft straw, well rubbed with the hand, for they seldom make a proper one themselves. Barley straw is best for this purpose, but of whatever you make it, let it be a good sound tight nest, for if it is loose and careless the eggs will get under the straw, the birds lose them, forsake the nest, and the eggs are not hatched, owing to a little carelessness. The hen mostly lays two eggs, missing one day between the first and second; after having laid her first egg, which is always between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, she and the cock alternately stand over it, to protect it from the intrusion of other birds; the second is laid, usually, at one o'clock, or soon after, on the third day, when they commence incubation in the following manner:—the cock sits from between nine and ten in the morning till four or five o'clock in the afternoon, when the hen sits till the following morning, and so alternately till the seventeenth day from the laying the last egg, when the incubation is complete, and the eggs will be chipped, and in general hatched in the course of that day, if they hatch at all, and this regularity and alternate relief is maintained during the feeding as well as the sitting.

I used, formerly, when the first egg was laid between five and six o'clock in the afternoon to take it away and put it into a pill box, lined with wadding, to prevent its breaking, and substitute a bone egg, for the birds to stand over, or sit upon, and on the third day, when the hen would lay her second egg, between one and two o'clock; prior to this, on the same morning, restore the first egg about nine o'clock, so that it might acquire the same warmth of the last egg, and both hatched together. I know I was a great gainer by this method, but having many birds, it was too troublesome; but if you have a few birds and time on your hands, it will reward you for your trouble.

OF HATCHING.

The Fancier should be very particular, and be certain of the day of hatching. The way I do is to keep a book on purpose, and in looking at the nest pans, where I expect them to lay after six o'clock in the evening; if an egg is laid, I put in the book the number of the penn to which the birds belong the day the first egg is laid; suppose the first egg on the first of the month, the second egg on the third, then add seventeen days for sitting from the last egg which is laid on the third, making it the twentieth; and while you are going your round to look after fresh laid eggs, look to those eggs that are to hatch that day, for be assured that in nine cases out of ten the birds will be hatched if hatched at all, unless the weather is unfavorable and the birds do not sit close; on the contrary, should the weather be very hot, and the birds sit close with a good warm nest, they will rather hatch before. We will suppose the seventeenth day from the hen having laid her last egg now arrived, and the young ones beginning to hatch, much attention is now necessary to be paid, and a little judicious assistance is sometimes requisite to assist the young bird in extricating itself from its prison-house, and particularly in the spring, when the young ones even in the shell are more delicate and weakly than they are at a later period of the season, and consequently less able to disengage themselves. If an egg does not spring or chip by the time it ought, namely, in the course of the seventeenth day, the Fancier should hold it to his ear, and if the young one makes a crackling kind of noise, and that pretty briskly, he may conclude it will soon chip; when it has so chipped, if the young one should not proceed in its endeavours to break the shell as much as the Fancier thinks it ought to have done in the time, and does not continue to make so brisk a noise, it is a sure sign that the young one is weakly and almost exhausted, requiring immediate assistance; in that case he should gently dent his thumb or finger nail, or the head of a pin, in a circle round the egg, in the same manner as if it had been done from within by the beak of the young one itself; remembering to let in a little air, which may be safely done at the part where its beak lies, and no blood will issue from it, by which means it will be greatly assisted in extricating itself, and many a valuable bird may be thus saved; particular care should be taken not to pick a

hole in any other part of the shell than above mentioned or make it bleed, although I have heard some Fanciers say they have taken them out of the shell and they have bled like pigs, but it is extremely dangerous. If it has been moving about in the shell so long as to have absorbed all the moisture or blood, and has by its circuitous motion rolled up the little caul or membrane in which it is enveloped whilst in the egg, it may safely be set at liberty, taking care to expose it to the air as short a time as possible. When it is disengaged from the shell, a portion of the yolk will be seen attached to its navel, which will nourish it for a day or two, if the old ones should not happen to feed it immediately. It happens from some cause or other, that the young ones do not get fed, in these cases if the Fancier is anxious to save the produce of the pair, and has no means of shifting them under another pair, he must take some crumb of bread, and some yolk of an egg boiled hard, and masticate them in his mouth till they become of the proper consistence to pass into the crop of the young bird, and by applying its beak to his mouth it will in general suck its crop full very readily, and by the time he has repeated this a day or so, the chances are greatly in favor of the old ones feeding it, either from a more abundant supply of soft meat, or from some other cause; but if the Fancier neglects this too long, the young bird will become weak and will not thrive upon his experiment, even though it should have taken some of this artificial food into its crop in the way before mentioned; but when once the old ones have fed it after him, it is astonishing to see the alteration that takes place in the young bird for the better, in a few hours.

If one should hatch considerably before the other, which it will do if the old ones have rather sat upon, than merely stood over the first egg, and it should happen to be a bad head and beak bird, which is not very promising, kill it, although an Almond, and rather take the chance of what the other egg will produce; it being in his favor that the produce will be a short-faced good head and beak bird: the reason I recommend this is, because the rough and strong bird being first hatched, will acquire too much strength, get all the food and starve the one most wished to be raised. For you do not stand in need of rough Almonds, any more than queer Kites; should you have plenty of feeders that can bring it up you may do so, and make a feeder of it, but do not hazard the rearing of a valuable bird through it. The more you kill, comparatively speaking, however strange it may appear to you, my experience teaches the greater will be your gain; otherwise, as I stated before, you will raise the rough long-faced, and lose the valuable short-faced birds, but I advise you to have plenty of feeders.

OF SHIFTING.

Hatching a little wonder is one thing, to raise it another; and in a former part of this work I laid great stress on the shifting, when you consider how early the old birds begin to decline sitting on their young; this is more particularly the case with the Almond Tumblers, who will rarely bring up their own young, except in the height of summer, by reason of their quitting them sooner to go to nest again; they begin to get restless as early as the sixth day, and the ninth or tenth they will be off the nest for an hour or more at a time, and get calling to nest again by which the young ones are left exposed to the air before they have a feather upon them, and die of cold with their crops full; to obviate this he should shift them under another pair that have not hatched so long, and kill the young ones he takes away from such other pair, if he has not a shift for them also; in doing which he gets these shifted young ones an additional supply of warmth from being sat on, and of soft meat, from the fresh pair not having hatched or fed so long, and consequently their soft meat not being exhausted. Some Fanciers are very unwilling to kill a bird, by which means they frequently lose two; but, surely, it is better to kill one to save the other, than not to kill it, and so lose both.

If he has not Almonds enough, it is better to get some common Tumblers for feeders or nurses, such as bald-heads or beards, and by killing their young, which

he will do without reluctance, he may be certain of bringing up his young Almonds, and if he is judicious he may generally have a succession of feeders, by taking away the hens of his feeders, and confining them awhile, and when any of his best Almonds are within a day or two of laying, turn the feeder hen to her mate, they will go to nest immediately, and lay in a week or less after the others, by which means he will get a certain shift for his young Almonds at the distance of six, seven, or eight days, which is just the time the old ones begin to desert them, and thus bring up a pair of good birds, which without such feeders he probably would have lost, he should let the common birds feed their own young a day or two after hatching to bring on their soft meat.

There are Fanciers, who, by no means approve of shifting oftener than once, if it can be avoided, but sometimes the course of shifting throughout the whole loft, will necessarily be such that it cannot be prevented. Too great a supply of soft meat is very detrimental, and frequently fatal, by causing the canker or putrescence in the throat of the young bird. It is very necessary to give the young ones fresh nests when you shift them, and here I will just throw out a hint—I sincerely hope you have no insects, for if you scrape up your aviary, loft, or breeding places daily, by attention to these rules you will not be troubled with these insects in any material degree; the best way is to burn the old nests, and a few hot cinders dropped into the nest pan, and shaken round, will kill all that remain in the porous parts of the pan. Some Fanciers assert that shifting the nests of the young birds is apt to give them the scowers, but I cannot say I have ever experienced that to be the case, on the contrary they have always thriven greatly.

OF MOULTING.

This, though not a disease, but natural to all the feathered kind, is more fatal to the Almond Tumbler than any disease that afflicts them, they moult, or in other words, cast their old feathers, and acquire a new set every year. Numbers of them die under this painful operation of nature, before they can accomplish the change, and most of them are rendered more or less unwell, particularly the hens, which are generally more delicate and less capable of bearing such a change; if they are old it is mostly fatal to them. They begin to moult about May or June by casting the flight feathers, and no further moult is perceptible till the middle of July or so, when the body feathers begin to appear pretty thick about the aviary or loft, in August they get considerably into moult, and in the month of September, they are what is called deep in moult, many of them being very ragged about the breast and hackle, and some of their necks are featherless, but full of stumps of the new feathers, which gives them a very disagreeable appearance for a short time, greatly altering the proportions of their shape, and disguising them so much that the Fancier scarcely knows his own birds. Should he chance to go out of town for a month or six weeks at this particular season, he would on his return have great difficulty in distinguishing one from another, from the great alteration that takes place, for in general they acquire more colour, and get darker every year, particularly the cock birds. They do not get completely out of moult till November, and I have seen them moulting even later than this. Towards the close of the season, when the birds are in the worst stage of their moulting, and the weather is gradually getting colder, warmth is particularly necessary in order to assist them in casting their feathers kindly. Notwithstanding this, I do not think it right to shut up the aviary or loft, running the risk of affecting the health of the birds in general, and making them tender on account of a few that are not so well as the others, for air is as necessary as warmth; but such as are unusually ill should be taken and put in a pen, in a room where there is a fire, giving them a pill or two of aloes, with some seed. If they do not begin to moult freely with this treatment, some of their rump and tail feathers should be pulled out, which will sometimes set them into moult; it will be proper to give all the

birds a good handful of hemp or rape seed every day, which will warm and make them comfortable, and greatly assist by such warmth to cast the feather.

Some birds that are rather delicate will not blow their flights and tails kindly, which will be seen on examining them, and they will be found covered with a sheath or cylinder to the very tip or extremity of what should be the feather, giving it the appearance of a thin skewer; when this is perceived it is a sign of weakness, and the bird should be kept warm if it could be spared from the loft, and the feather will blow freely, as warmth assists the feather in blowing, so cold and damp weather will make the husk or sheath tough, and prevent its drying and scaling off as it will do in hot weather, and the feather will perish. If the bird cannot be spared from the aviary or loft to be kept warm, so that the feather may disengage itself; the husk should be peeled off as far as it is tolerably dry, and care must be taken that the feather is not pulled out, as the one that succeeds it (if any does succeed) will be worse than the one so drawn, and most likely be nothing more than a mere stump or perished feather, care must also be taken not to make it bleed. The best way I have found out in endeavouring to moult the birds, was to imagine that I was fattening the birds for the spit, believing from observations that a bird would not die of moulting, provided it was fat; on the contrary, I am certain that a poor lean emaciated half-starved bird cannot by any possibility throw its feather, and the only way I ever found out to cause it to moult, was to get it in high condition, and then it moulted without any further trouble of mine, and I believe that I could never get the birds so fat as when I gave them wheat; be this as it may, if you want to get your birds well through the moult, get them as fat as you possibly can, and a little saffron in their water is likewise very beneficial.

OF VERMIN.

These birds, like every other kind, have their peculiar species of vermin, the most troublesome are a sort of louse, not unlike in colour those found upon persons of filthy habits, but of a different shape, being nearly round, and about half the size, they run incredibly swift, and on turning up the feathers on the belly of the bird, disappear in an instant, they harbour in the short feathers on the underpart of the rump close to the quills of the tail feathers; but are to be found in greater abundance on the belly, near the vent, where the bird cannot very well reach them, and if the bird is very foul the roots of the feathers will be clotted with nits or eggs, and swarms of these insects will run away in every direction the moment the feathers are turned up; they also inhabit the neck, where they likewise deposit their eggs in great abundance, being there perfectly safe, from destruction till they arrive at maturity, when they descend to the belly-part for sustenance. Birds with wry, crooked, or hooked beaks, are most subject to these vermin, being from those defects less able to destroy them, and should therefore be particularly attended to.

The best remedy, beyond all doubt, is the *unguent. mercur.*, commonly called blue ointment, rubbed, on the parts, but not in such quantity as to affect the bird, a small portion is sufficient; this should not be rubbed about the head or neck, but only on the belly, and the clotted or nitted feathers pulled off, which will clear the way for the application of the ointment, and by the next day he will not be able to find any vermin of that kind upon the birds. They should be examined every now and then, as the nits in the neck which were not affected with the unction will be continually coming to life, and create a new brood, and over-run the birds again very shortly, therefore, as often as any signs of vermin appear, rub a little of the ointment on the belly to receive them, which will infallibly kill all that touch it, by these means the Fancier will always keep his birds clear.

This is particular necessary for the hens, as many of them suffer, and are exhausted so much by this little blood sucker that they will not breed, but upon

cleaning them they recover their health, and breed as well as ever. I have seen birds so devoured with them, as to have large crusts or scabs formed by the ichor that flows from the wounds these little animals inflict upon their bellies, under which scabs, forming a sort of canopy, they run for shelter, and remain in safety when the bird is picking itself; another purpose is also answered by these incrustations, covering parts of the belly of the bird in a circle beyond where the wounds are, by rendering the parts so covered softer to the piercers of these little insects, and affording them a more ready, as well as a safe opportunity, of satisfying the cravings of their voracious appetites. The blue ointment not only destroys the vermin, but heals the wounds under the crusts before mentioned, in a day or two. Some Fanciers are afraid of venturing upon this remedy, and have recourse to the usual ones of snuff, tobacco dust, snuff and hog's-lard, smoking their feathers, &c.; but I am satisfied these are of very little, if any use, because they are not fatal to the insects, if they come in contact with it, and, besides, they are very troublesome and prejudicial in the application, by getting into the bird's eyes, nostrils, &c., disfiguring them, and discolouring their plumage, which must be turned back to get the snuff down to the quills of the feathers.

I know a good Fancier that always uses a strong decoction of tobacco water. I formerly used sweet oil, and the heat of the body caused the oil to spread all over the skin of the bird, and the insects could not escape; but I fancied the oil rotted the roots of the feather, and caused them to come off. I mentioned the circumstance one evening at a grand show, and was informed that if I used animal oil, instead of vegetable, it would not happen—such as neat's-foot oil; I think this would be worth trying. Of late I have used nothing but the blue ointment, and have anointed upwards of one hundred at the same time, but only on the belly, never having used it on the neck, and never saw any of them tremulous or paralytic; but there are Fanciers who have ventured to rub some of the ointment about the neck feathers; if the Fancier does this, it must be done very cautiously and sparingly, otherwise it will affect the birds so far as to make them tremulous and paralytic, and even kill them. I therefore recommend the young Fancier not to apply the ointment to the neck at the same time that he does to the belly, but wait two or three days first.

I am bound to acknowledge, after the most mature consideration, that I cannot possibly do better than give verbatim, some of the remarks on the management of the Almond Tumbler, contained in a work now out of print, dedicated to the "Gentlemen of the Columbarian Society;" those remarks are so true, taken from actual observations, and constitutes a complete fund of experience; nevertheless, I shall add a few ideas, which I trust will not be found unacceptable or unworthy of following the excellent remarks I here allude to.

THE LOFT

Should be very airy, and at the top of the house, and if it is large, it would be better to divide it, as the Fancier will find two rooms very convenient upon many accounts, particularly in cross-matching, in the middle of the breeding season, if the produce of his birds should not please him; and he will find his birds more familiar if they have not too much wing room; and when he wishes to catch any of them, he should entice them into the area with a little rape or hemp seed, by which he will avoid hurrying them about the room, and may catch them at pleasure, and prevent the probability of a hen who is near laying, dropping her egg on the ground. The area should, if convenient, have a south west aspect, that the birds may have the benefit of the Sun in the spring mornings, when they are near laying, which will greatly assist them if the weather should unfortunately set in cold, soon after matching. And besides, it is very great service to the young ones as soon as they are able to fly up to it; but if it is convenient, I should recommend a separate room or loft for them, as soon as they are fit to be drafted off, as they will certainly thrive better, where they have no old

birds to contend with, and knock them about. The pennis should be two feet square at the least, with fronts to them, and a pitching board, and a small place to go in and out at, which should be made to fasten up as occasion requires. The lighter the work is, consistent with the proper degree of strength, the better, and the work should be let in, in order to give it a neat appearance. There are people in the Fancy who are carpenters, and understand that sort of work better than a man who is not a Fancier. The bars should not be more than two inches asunder. I prefer a shelf midway between the flooring and the ceiling of the penn, big enough to hold a nest pan, and a little over, for the birds to pitch upon when they fly up to it; by this means the young ones may always be prevented getting into the new nest with the old ones, when they are gone to nest again, and thus many a pair of eggs may be saved. When the old ones begin to leave their young, which they will generally do in nine or ten days time, and frequently sooner, remove the pan with the young ones from the shelf to the floor of the penn, the old ones will not forsake them, but continue to feed them as before, and the hen will sit on them at night as usual. A few days afterwards, when you perceive they are very anxious to go to nest again, put them a fresh pan on the shelf, which they will readily take to, and this plan may be pursued all through the season, and save a vast deal of trouble and loss. Though I have said it is desirable to have a warm aspect for the areas, I by no means wish it to be understood that I think the loft should be kept warm; on the contrary, it should have a free current of air, and in winter, except in very coarse days, I think the birds cannot be kept too cool, being convinced it braces them, and particularly the hens. It is only at the laying time in the spring, that I recommend the loft being shut up, to keep out the cold and searching winds, as the hens are at this time frequently very ill.

The loft and areas should be scraped every day, and kept thorough clean, the birds will be much more healthy, and never get clogged with dirt, and the Fancier will have greater pleasure in going into his loft; besides all this, it will prevent the possibility of fleas and other vermin infesting him. A little water should be sprinkled on the floor in the hot summer months, provided the Fancier does not gravel his loft. Some use this method of gravelling the floor, which I disapprove, on account of the dust it makes, and the harbour it affords for vermin, but the birds should always have access to gravel.

Above all, take care that the loft is not infested with rats or mice, the former of which will not only destroy the eggs, but the young ones also, and even the old ones, if no young ones are to be had; but a good cat trained up in the loft, and well disciplined, will remedy all this. I recommend a boar cat, but he should be castrated, that he may not be hankering to get out after the females, or entice others to the loft. A she cat is objectionable on the same account as an uncut boar cat is. These are more formidable enemies in their natural state than any other, and the loft on that account should, if possible, be inaccessible to the approach of cats. If this cannot be managed, they must be trapped, and all means used to prevent their ravages, not omitting to make the bars of the areas proof against their paws.

OF PENNING THE BIRDS.

The birds being paired, the next care must be to make them well acquainted with their respective pennis, and for this purpose they should be penned up for a few days, or longer if necessary, in the pennis designed for them, during which time they will match strong, and become well acquainted with their habitations. The Fancier should then begin by opening two of the pennis, that are most remote from each other, and the birds, finding no entrance to any other, will readily learn to know the places they came out of. When these two pair are well acquainted with their pennis, they should be fastened up again, and two other pair let out, remembering to let out such as are most distant from each other, by which means

they will be less liable to mistake each other's home; and so he must proceed, till the whole are well acquainted with their respective abodes. Great care should be taken to prevent a cock getting master of two pennis, for if once he gets a habit of going into another bird's penn, he assured he will never rest till he has driven that cock and hen from their house, and spoilt their eggs or killed their young ones. When this is become very troublesome, the only remedy is, to put him and and his hen into another room, for it is almost impossible to break him of this trick, if once he gets master. Thus the advantage of dividing the loft is clearly shewn, for without this convenience, he must be under the necessity of keeping that pair of birds constantly penned up, which would be very prejudicial to their health, and fill them with vermin. During this period, the young Fancier must bestow a little time in watching them, and putting them a few times into their own pennis, if they are at a loss to find them. By attending to these rules, the birds will soon become steady and settled. Particular care should also be taken always to give the cock the same habitation he had last year, if not, he will get master of two pennis, and occasion the difficulty just mentioned. The same care is not necessary with regard to the hens, they will always follow their cocks, when thoroughly matched.

OF THE NEST PANS.

Every pair of birds should be provided with a nest pan, which should be put on the shelf in the penn, and the birds made to go to nest there, as pointed out in my observations upon making the pennis. These pans should be about eight inches in diameter at the top, and between three or four inches in depth; they should not be perpendicular, but slope inwards from the top to the base, and should be rough on the inside, for the better retention of the straw. These can be made at any pottery, upon giving a model, or proper instructions how they are to be made. Some Fanciers have used little nests, in the shape of a pan, made with straw bands after the fashion of a bee-hive; these are very objectionable, on account of the harbour they afford for vermin, and from which it would be impossible ever to clear them.

MARKS,

BY WHICH TO ASCERTAIN THE COLOURS OF YOUNG BIRDS IN THE NEST.

If the beak has no mark on it, but is quite white, the bird will be an Almond.

If the beak is white, and has a little patch of black somewhere about it, this will probably be a Splash; but, should it be an Almond, it will most likely have a great deal of black about it.

If the beak be crossed on the point with a black stripe, or cross, rather inclining to blue, this bird will be a black, and not a Kite.

If with a deep blue mark, it will be a blue, which colour is very objectionable; and, if the pair should throw this colour more than once, they should be parted, and were they mine, I should part them the first time.

If with a black mark, rather inclining to, or having a faint tinge of red, it will be a Kite, and most likely a rich one.

If with a slatey-coloured mark, it will be a Dun.

If with a straw-colour, a Yellow.

If with a deeper straw-colour, inclining to red, an Agate. And,

If with a deep red, it will be a Red, or Red-mottled bird.

By minute attention to these marks, the Fancier will seldom fail in his prediction of the colour, long before any signs of feathers are visible.

With respect to such young birds turning out good or bad, that cannot be reduced to so great a certainty, as they alter so much in the nest, that a person

would sometimes scarce think it was the same bird he had seen a day or two before, was he not certain that no one could have changed it. These alterations are sometimes for the better, and sometimes for the worse, so that there is no saying, with any precision, which will, or will not, be a good bird, until after it has moulted, when the bird is seen in full beauty, and to the best advantage. Notwithstanding this, I am inclined to think that a good Fancier, who has made his observations, can give a pretty good guess, so far as head and beak only are concerned, because they are apparent, and the other properties occult, and not to be discovered till the bird arrives at maturity. But, if the young one is chubby about the beak, and has very little space between the head and the wattle, he may be assured it will be a short-faced bird, and may, in general, tell whether the beak will be coarse or fine.

OF DRAFTING

THE YOUNG ONES INTO ANOTHER LOFT.

This is very desirable, provided the Fancier is not straightened for room. As soon as the young ones can feed themselves, they should be taken into the loft provided for them, and have plenty of gravel and mortar, and their area should be kept thorough clean, where they will pick themselves, and bask in the sun, and thrive prodigiously.

Their food should be the best tares; or if sound beans could be procured that are small enough, I should prefer them, but it will be better to let them have both, as I do not think tares alone, a wholesome diet, being apt to make them scour.

An additional reason for drafting the young ones off, is, that the old ones should not continue feeding them, till they are on the point of hatching again, which they will do, even though they can feed themselves, and which is very injurious to the old ones, as they have no time to recruit from their labour, which, in feeding two or three large birds on the floor, as is often the case, is very great, and pulls the birds down very much, and throws them out of condition, particularly the hens, who are not equal to it, and have frequently seen them very ill from so great exertion, and on taking them in hand, have found them considerably wasted, which by taking off the young birds, has been remedied in a few days, and the old ones have picked up their flesh as before. For want of an additional room to draft them off, the Fancier must, if his loft is divided, put them in the contrary side, where they will be prevented teasing the old ones, and learn to feed well in two or three days.

OF BARREN BIRDS.

It sometimes happens that the Fancier has a pair of barren birds in his loft, that is, a pair that from age, or some other defect of nature, will not breed. This is more frequently attributable to the hen, as she is more liable to be weakened from too much breeding, and laying too quickly, and perhaps not having had sufficient care taken to sit and feed her off. But if she lays regularly, and the eggs do not come to perfection, after the usual time of sitting, it is clear it is not her fault, and must be attributed to some defect in the cock. If she does not lay, and only wants to be continually going to nest, it is her fault, and the best way is to give her a pair of eggs, and let her sit on them, and provide her a young one to feed off, when her time for sitting is out; and repeat this when she wishes to go to nest again for a few times, and if the hen is curable without flying her, this will make her lay again. If she is very valuable, the Fancier should send her to some friend in the country who keeps pigeons, and match her to one of the common birds, and let her fly; and if she is not past breeding, it will bring her round. When the Fancier has a hen of this description, and the cock is not too good to lose the use of in this way, he may make them very useful as feeders, by sitting them at almost any time he wishes, which office, by a little management, they will very readily perform, and when their time of sitting is expired, will be ready to take a

pair of good young ones off from some other pair, that are beginning to desert them. Should he not like to keep a pair of this description, he must discard the faulty bird; but before he does this, he should examine it, to see if it has any vermin, as they are sometimes the cause of barrenness.

OF WASHING.

The Fancier should take notice, that nothing contributes more to cleanliness than frequent washings, in which the birds delight amazingly, and plunge into the water with great eagerness; but this must not be permitted to be done in a slovenly way, if it is, they will not be benefitted. The pan should be put into the area, and the birds made to wash there, that the waste water may run away, and not be suffered to wash in the loft, and make a wet place, that will not be dry in three or four days, by which they will draggle their flights and tails, and make themselves more dirty, instead of cleaner. The water should not be given them more than twice a week, or three times at most, for if they have it too frequently, they will not use it. Another inconvenience that would result from their constantly having water to wash in, would be, that some would be washing one day, and some another, the area would never be dry, and the same evil would arise as if they were permitted to wash on the floor of the loft, for nothing soils their plumage so much as constant wet, particularly their flights and tails. I think the cistern water for this purpose is best, because it is softer and more likely to assist in removing the filth from their plumage, than pump-water.

OF FLYING THE BIRDS.

Some Fanciers prefer flying their birds, but to this I cannot assent, either in town or country, more particularly in town, as they are extremely weak and timid, and the least blast of wind would blow them down the chimneys; or one bird playing up against another, would have the same effect, and the Fancier would be continually losing birds of value, to his great mortification, and be constantly getting into disgrace with his neighbours, and perhaps into difficulties, add to this, that the birds would be ten times more dirty, and washing is of no use, therefore, as no advantage whatever can possibly be derived from it, I object to it entirely. In the country it is different, because it is clean, and may benefit the plumage; but even there, I would not fly them constantly, as it tends to make them coarse, which is the reverse of what is wished to be obtained in these birds, viz.—delicacy; I should therefore fly them only occasionally, which would answer all the purposes of keeping them healthy, and beautiful in their plumage. And a further reason is, that it tends to make them wild, instead of what is so desirable, perfectly familiar. Some have doubted whether the Almonds will tumble in the air when flying like the common Tumblers, but I can solve that doubt, by assuring them, that they will, and that I once had one of my own, that tumbled remarkably well, and very clean, never losing any way in the air, so as to be distanced by the rest of the flight, which is a great perfection in tumbling.

OF LOAM.

The birds should be furnished with loam, of which they are remarkably fond, which should be put into a garden or flower-pot, and well soaked, and when the water has drained off, and the loam become solid, lay the pot on its side, and they will eat the loam very greedily, especially if there is a little salt in it, of which they are also immoderately fond; but as they are already of a hot nature, and sufficiently thirsty, I do not approve of increasing that thirst by artificial means, unless some good reason could be given for it, and which I confess I am at a loss to find out. Some Fanciers say, that obliging them to drink is very useful to them; but I cannot say I agree with them, as it seems to me to stand to reason, that a bird will drink sufficiently if it can get it, without any unnatural

means to provoke it. There are loam-pots to be had at the earthenware shops made on purpose, they are of a conical form, part of the cone or cap takes off, for the reception of the loam, and there are holes in the side for the birds to get at it.

I am of opinion, that loam should be given only in the summer time, or breeding season, and not in the winter, having good reason to think it occasions the roop, or at least promotes it, and retards the cure when the bird is troubled with that complaint, and the reason that occurs to me, seems to be feasible enough, which is, that the roop being a sort of cold in the head, and the nose, or nostrils rather, having a communication with the mouth, and being in that complaint always stuffed with rheum or phlegm, I think it is fair to presume, that the constant eating of cold loam may sometimes occasion the roop, or at least may tend to make it worse, when a bird is already affected with it. I used formerly to suffer my birds to eat it all winter, and they all had this complaint more or less. It afterwards occurred to me that this might possibly be the reason, and since that time I have not allowed them any, after the cold weather has set in, and have had the satisfaction of finding, that none of my birds have been affected with it since, in a general way, but only now and then one. Some Fanciers make a composition of loam, gravel, and mortar, adding some salt, but I think it is far preferable to give them each of these (except the salt) in their crude or natural state.

GRAVEL.

Is essentially necessary for the birds to have always by them; and unless they have, or some substitute in lieu of it, as sand or mould, I am inclined to think they would not be healthy. It is absolutely requisite for the purpose of grinding and digesting the food, which enters the stomach from the crop, in a whole, though soft state, and was it not for the particles of gravel, little stones, and other hard substances which they pick up, and which passes through the gizzard with the food, and assists maceration and digestion, I should think birds would not only become very unhealthy and indolent, but not live in our lofts to that age which they frequently do, some of them living with us nine, ten, and even eleven years.

MORTAR.

From the eagerness with which these birds search for, and from the avidity with which they devour mortar, one would think it was as absolutely necessary to their existence as gravel, but reflection will teach us that it is not, for before the mortar can reach the stomach it must be rendered soft, if not entirely dissolved, and thereby become unfit for the purpose of grinding the food, which is the use of the small stones in the gravel, but it may possibly, from its heat, assist in promoting maceration and digestion. Some Fanciers assert it will harden the eggshell, when a hen is near laying; but to this I cannot readily subscribe, conceiving that mortar from its hot nature would rather corrode, than indurate the shell. I do not however perceive that any ill effects arise from their eating it, and on that account perhaps it may be fair to conclude, that it is of some service to them. There is no doubt but their fondness for mortar arises from the quantity of salt-petre, or saline particles, which it contains, and their immoderate partiality for salt being universally known and admitted, I should think, that although they are so fond of it, yet it is by no means absolutely necessary to their existence; but where Fanciers fly their birds, it is absolutely necessary to supply them well with mortar, as a matter of policy, otherwise they will shortly unroof the house they belong to, and greatly damage those adjoining, and bring their keepers into difficulty. The mortar should not be new, but should be got on purpose from the rubbish of some old house or wall that is pulling down, which has lost the greater part of its original heat, and which is therefore preferable to fresh made mortar.

OF THEIR FOOD.

I shall now call the young Fancier's attention to a matter which is most material of all to the health of his birds, and upon which the speedy and vigorous increase of their young greatly depends, I mean their food.

If the throats of the young birds were not so small, I have no hesitation in saying, that beans of the best quality, and as small as they could be obtained, would be the best food that could possibly be given them; and was it not for the difficulty the old birds have in feeding their young entirely upon beans, I would never give them any thing else. This might possibly be objected to by some, from a supposition, that beans alone would not so readily furnish a sufficiency of soft meat, from their solidity, but I should think this reason would not bear them out, as it is notorious that the birds of the common Fanciers are fed upon nothing else, and they are always furnished with as much soft meat as those that are otherwise fed. But in the breeding season, the Almond Tumbler should be supplied also with good sound old tares, and to the hoppers containing these, as well as the beans, they should have free access, that they may satisfy themselves as often as occasion requires, which is almost incessant whilst they are feeding their young, being very voracious feeders, which may be accounted for, from their great heat of constitution, the food being quickly digested and converted into excrement, and continually passing through them; care should be taken not to purchase such beans or tares as have been at sea, and got damaged with salt water, as they will infallibly scour or purge the birds, and probably kill some of them. In order to ascertain this, the Fancier ought always to put some of them into his mouth, and chew them, by which means he will readily discover it, should it be so.

In order, in some measure, to prove my argument as to the beans being the best food, and preferable to any other, I shall state the observations I have made upon the excrement of the birds as soon as voided.

I have noticed the excrement of birds that have been fed upon ordinary beans, and found that it was tolerably hard and good, but that it was not attended with much mucus or slime, from which I infer, that the food was not sufficiently nutritious to afford the proper quantum of mucus necessary for the easy discharge of the fœces; but the fœces of birds fed upon prime hard old beans, have been very different, and according to my idea have worn a much more healthy appearance than the former; the fœces of birds so fed have been voided in a solid lump, surrounded with a plentiful quantum of fine oily, or slimy mucus, from whence I think the operation of digestion is better performed by the best food, and consequently that the birds must be more healthy.

Tares, if of ever so good quality, are very improper to feed birds upon alone, for they are very laxative, and never produce a solid excrement, which in a great measure tends to prove my argument as to the superiority of the first mentioned food; for whoever has made any observation upon the ordure of birds fed upon tares alone, will, I trust, allow, that it is never solid, but generally of a pasty consistence, and sometimes very thin; I think it thence follows, that birds in this constant state of laxation, can never be so hearty and vigorous as those fed upon good old beans, which produce a solid excrement.

From what I have above advanced, it will readily be supposed that I prefer beans alone for their constant food, when the breeding season is over; I certainly do, and with great reason, as I attribute my having been particularly fortunate to the observations of the before-mentioned rules, and may venture to say, although my birds are kept in the heart of this great city, enveloped in constant clouds of smoke from chimnies, foundries, furnaces, &c., no Fancier's birds are more healthy, and few have raised so many young ones in proportion to their stock, or lost so few old ones from diseases, &c. The only inconvenience which I can complain of is, the utter impossibility of keeping the plumage of my birds so clean and

beautiful, as those kept in a clearer atmosphere, which is certainly very much to their disadvantage, and a great detraction from the beauty of their colours.

OF THEIR DRINK.

I prefer pump water for the drink of the birds, conceiving it to be more bracing, and less impregnated with animalculæ than cistern, or river water, consequently less subject to putrescence in the hot water. They are very great drinkers, not drinking like fowls by little sips, but in continued draughts, like quadrupeds, moving their mouths very quick, and swallowing the water greedily. Particular care should be taken to keep their fountains or bottles clean, as it is not at all improbable that diseases may arise from the foul state of a fountain, which will become greatly furred, and even stink, when the weather is hot, if not frequently cleaned. The fountains or bottles should not be filled too full in hot weather, so that the water may be soon drank, and replaced with fresh, which will prevent the possibility of its becoming putrid. Some put a lump of chalk into their water, this may be very well, where there is none but river water to be had, but I should think no great degree of astringency could be communicated to the water by it. If any scourings take place amongst the old birds, the Fancier may break plenty of chalk and mortar on the floor, which they will eat readily; and as to the young ones, he must adopt the remedy laid down on treating of this complaint.

They are exceedingly fond of urine, and will drink it greedily, if they can get at it; some Fanciers soak their loam with it, which induces them to eat a great deal of it, and they will scarcely ever leave the place where it is to be obtained. This may be very well for those Fanciers who keep common birds and fly them, but I object to it for the Almond Tumbler, on the same ground as salt, viz that of creating an artificial thirst to birds already sufficiently thirsty. Pigeons drink much at all times, but particularly when feeding large young ones; they then run to the water, and take five or six hearty draughts, and immediately feed their young; this assists in soaking the food, and also in the easy discharge of it from the crop of the old ones into those of the young.

OF PARTING THE BIRDS

AFTER THE BREEDING SEASON.

I am a great advocate for this measure, having found my account in it, and thence been thoroughly convinced of its beneficial effects, great utility, and convenience; and I shall endeavour to convince the young Fancier also, of the propriety and advantage of this plan, by a few observations to that point. In the first place, a great deal of plague and trouble is saved to the Fancier, by the impossibility of the birds going to nest, which they will do, if not parted, in spite of all his efforts to prevent them; he is then under the necessity of continuing them another round, as the Fanciers term it, (though he is convinced of the impropriety of it, at that late season of the year) to the great detriment of his hens, and without a chance of bringing up what they may happen to hatch. In the next place, should the weather set in cold, the birds remain a little inactive for the moment as it were, but the first warm day that comes, though in December or January, they are all alive, calling to nest, copulating, &c. which is very prejudicial to both, but particularly to the hens, as it must necessarily tend to weaken and enfeeble them, and make them what is called pappy, which is caused by their being over salacious, and having too frequent connection with the males without going to nest, as they would do if the weather was not so cold. Thus we plainly see, that the only advantage to be derived from keeping the birds together in the winter, is, ironically speaking, to spoil the hens.

And further, as few Fanciers match their birds in the manner they were matched the preceding season, from the number of young ones they may have bred, which by the following season are become matchable, and occasion the necessity of

altering the old matches, and from other causes, the advantage of parting the birds in the winter, is here, I think, particularly conspicuous; it will enable him to cross-match all his birds without the least difficulty, as they will cross-match ten times more readily when they have been asunder two or three months, than when they have been kept together.

When I have had occasion to cross-match two or three pair of birds in the height of the breeding season, on account of their produce not pleasing me, I have frequently had great difficulty in obtaining my point, from the strong recollection the birds have had of each other; and though I have at last succeeded, the moment the hens have been turned into the loft they have flown to their former pennis and mates, and it was a considerable time before they were reconciled to their new mates and abodes. To prevent this, the new matched pair should be fastened into their own penn, taking care that the cock has the same penn as he had before. This evil will be completely remedied by parting the loft, as the Fancier may then put a pair or two of the cross-matched birds into the contrary side to which they have been accustomed, and by this means avoid the intercourse that must necessarily take place between the new matched birds, and their former mates.

Another thing is necessary to be attended to by the Fancier, in cross matching, viz.—he should have two or three matching pennis in some other part of his house, if not too inconvenient, in order that the birds he is about to cross match, may be out of the hearing of their former mates, and of the other birds in the loft, which will greatly facilitate their speedy matching to their new mates. They will frequently be a very long time in matching in the loft, where they can both see and hear each other, and sometimes will not match at all.

If they continue obstinate, a handful of rape or hemp seed should be given them occasionally; and if the cock is very violent, and fights his hen, an open lath partition should be put across the penn, to separate them, so that they may only see each other, and they will soon match by this method, which will be ascertained by the hen sweeping her tail, nodding her head, &c. which is called shewing.

OF THEIR DUNG.

Their dung is so valuable, and in so great requisition, that if it is preserved genuine, and as little straw and other rubbish as possible suffered to get amongst it, tanners and others will give five shillings per sack for it, and will fetch it whenever they are informed there is any ready for them. It is used by the tanners to separate the hair from the hides, being of an extremely hot nature, and answering their purpose better than most other things they make use of. It is also an excellent manure for cold, wet, and clayey land, and if it could be procured in any quantity, the farmers of such sorts of land would give almost any price for it.

OF THEIR DISEASES.

The Almond Tumblers are not naturally liable to many diseases; the majority of those which do attack them, I attribute to a want of sufficient cleanliness, and good management in their masters, but if taken care of in these respects, they will live nine or ten years, and sometimes longer, and are generally taken off at last by the moult.

The first and most fatal that has come under my observation is, what is commonly understood and called by the name of the Canker. This disorder is very much confined to the young birds in the nest, and does not very frequently attack the old ones, and as it originates in the œsophagus or throat, it seems to me to arise from the putrefaction of a redundancy of the soft meat, and that putrescency communicating itself to the throat, and causing a core, I am inclined to think, it ought with greater propriety to be called a sore throat, and perhaps, from the intolerable foetor emitted from the throat and crop, not improperly a putrid sore

throat; be this as it may, if the complaint is suffered to go on without any attempt to relieve the bird, the core will enlarge, the throat swell, and the bird soon die of suffocation.

Some people are apt to pick off the core, or cut it out, but this is not only of no use, but fatal, as the core soon becomes larger than before, and could it all be cut clean out, the bird would die very shortly, if not in a few minutes.

I have more than once opened the throat of a bird that died of this disease, and all the information I could obtain was, that the core adhered so tight to the fleshy or muscular parts of the throat, that it actually appeared like a part of the flesh, being as it were incorporated with it, except that the colour of the core, being of a yellow, distinguished it from the throat itself: the core was perfectly hard, and would separate from the flesh, by pulling, or picking it with a knife, but this was with some difficulty, on account of the adhesion, and when it did separate, it left a large and deep hole. I have been surprised that I never should have been able to discover any pus in the throat, which induces me to think that no suppuration takes place, but this is probably because the bird must die of suffocation from the swelling in the throat, before the matter can have had sufficient time to form, and discharge itself.

My researches therefore have not been attended with any certain success, but have left me still to conjecture.

One thing however I have ascertained, that to cut or pick the core, is fatal sooner or later, from the great pain and quantity of blood the bird loses from these operations.

Although as I have at first observed, this disease is more particularly incident to young birds in the nest, yet it is by no means uncommon in old birds; it does not in general attack the throat, as in the young ones, but appears in a different way, and usually comes about the mouth and beak, and is not to be discovered very readily at first, but when it begins to enlarge, the bird will not be able to close its mouth, and seems as if it was panting for breath, and on examining it, the core will soon be discovered. I once had a bird that was attacked with this complaint, and I discovered a core as big as a pea, on the outside of the beak or lower jaw, which was much swoln, and it was with great pain and difficulty that the bird could swallow: this had no doubt been some time forming, but it soon gave way on applying the remedy I have under written.

Not being sufficiently able to trace the cause of this disorder, I must endeavour to make some amends to the Fancier by communicating a cure when the effect is produced: and which, if attended to, and frequently and patiently administered, will, I have no doubt, generally succeed.

I cannot describe the quantum and proportions of the ingredients in the way a medical man would do, but must content myself with telling the Fancier in a plain way—to take

A half-pint phial, and fill it three parts full of the best vinegar, drop into it as many drops of spirit of vitriol as will make it sufficiently pungent, which may be ascertained by trying it on the tongue a few times, sweeten it with a little honey, which will make it adhere to the throat, shake them well together, and take a feather, and anoint the inside of the throat of the bird affected, two or three times a day, and in general a cure will be accomplished; hang the phial up in the loft, where it will be ready for future occasions, as I do not perceive that the specific loses its virtue by keeping.

That this complaint is contagious, I have no doubt, for it generally attacks a number of young birds at the same time, and is most prevalent in the hot months. Formerly this complaint used to infest my loft every season, by which I lost many good birds, but from what cause it arose I never could discover, the same degree

of cleanliness having been observed, and the birds having been treated in every respect the same then, as since, as far as I can recollect, and I have not had a single instance of the kind for many years past. The only possible conjecture I can make, is, that possibly I might not have been so particular about the food I then gave them, and most unquestionably, the quality of the food is very material in the prevention of complaints.

THE ROOP.

The next disorder that comes particularly under our notice is, the Roop. This, as I before observed, is a kind of cold or influenza, and is more frequent in cold, damp, and wet weather, therefore in such weather the loft should be kept particularly clear of dung, which if suffered to remain will increase the damp, and make the birds worse, and perhaps spread the complaint through the whole loft, for I am of opinion, that this disorder is also contagious, therefore, on its first appearance the infected bird or birds should be taken away, and kept warm, and should occasionally have a handful of seed given them. Some put rue into their water, but I do not think this is of any use; the only remedy with which I am acquainted, is to keep them warm, and squeeze the rheum out of their nostrils, and also from the orifice in the palate or roof of the mouth, which communicates with the nostrils, by pressing which with the thumb and finger, and at the same time opening the mouth, a lump of rheum like jelly, will be seen obtruding itself from the orifice, which should be removed, and the bird will then breathe freely. This should be repeated about twice a day, and a pill of bitter aloes, the size of a pea, given once in two days, which will warm the inside, and the bird will soon recover. A few pepper-corns are not amiss to be given the intervening days. This is by no means a dangerous complaint, if attended to when discovered. It seems to me to be very similar to a violent cold and stoppage in the head.

THE VERTIGO, OR MEAGRIMS.

These birds are subject to a complaint called the Vertigo or Meagrims, which is an involuntary turning or twisting of the head towards the back, accompanied with a blinking of the eyes, and the bird flutters and flies indiscriminately against any thing that comes in its way. It is very disagreeable and painful to see them in this situation; as I have yet to find out a certain cure for this complaint, and as the bird seldom if ever gets the better of it, was it mine, and an indifferent bird, I should think it best to put it out of its misery, and not torture it with useless experiments.

THE STAGGERS.

This is another complaint, and is a constant turning round or staggering, when the bird attempts to walk or fly; but as I am in the same predicament with respect to the cure of this complaint as of the other, I should be necessitated to adopt the same remedy.

Both the above complaints are very rare, and have never happened in my loft, although I have seen them, so that I have never been driven to the necessity of considering what would be proper to administer upon these occasions. By what information I have gathered upon the subject, I am inclined to think that these complaints are rarely, if ever cured; I think it probable, that making a small puncture in the roof of the mouth, to let out a little blood, might be attended with beneficial effects, as the disorders both seems to me, to arise from a giddiness in the head. Was a valuable bird of mine to be in either of these situations, I should certainly be induced to try the experiment, notwithstanding what I before said about useless experiments; indeed the experiment would be hardly worth making upon an ordinary bird, unless for satisfaction sake, and for the purpose of knowing how to treat a better bird, was it to be in that situation.

SCOURING OR PURGING.

Pigeons are sometimes subject to scouring or purging, particularly young ones, which is generally accompanied with a foetid smell; when this is perceived, put down the throat a lump of chalk of the size of a bean, three or four times a day, which will effectually stop it, and the bird will soon be as well as before. Pump water, as before observed, being more astringent, should be given them, and the clotted feathers, if any, should be plucked from about the anus, to prevent their being cold and wet, which the constant purging will occasion, and their nests should be kept dry, as from weakness in this complaint they are frequently unable to dung over the side of the nest-pan.

THE SMALL POX.

The young birds are also subject to a complaint, which, from its similarity, is by Fanciers called the Small Pox; it generally makes its appearance just before the birds begin to fledge, and comes out pretty thick in little pustules filled with matter, about the head, neck, and back; but I never observed that the birds were the least ill with it, and it usually disappears in six or seven days, without having had the smallest effect upon them that I could perceive, the birds thriving and growing all the time as if nothing was the matter with them.

They have some other little complaints too trifling to notice, but if a bird is unwell, and I cannot discover what the cause of its illness is, I generally administer a pill or two of rhubarb, of the size of a pea, and repeat it on the alternate day, which purges them, and generally sets them right.

OF ODD OR UNMATCHED BIRDS.

The Fancier should avoid keeping too many odd or unmatched birds in his loft, for they will be continually getting into the pennis of the other birds that are sitting steadily, and fight them, and if not break the eggs, in all probability cause the hen to forsake her nest, by which she will be liable to lay again too quickly, and without having sat a proper time to recruit herself; or if she was near hatching, her crop will be filling with soft meat, which the Fancier will have no means of getting rid of, for her, and she will be in danger of being sick and ill, in consequence of it. To remedy this, he had better buy a common bird or two to match to his own that are odd; and they will thus be prevented doing him mischief, and be attended with the advantage of being serviceable to him as feeders.

Some Fanciers fit up their lofts with mere shelves, and partitions between them, without any fronts, so that each division is open to the intrusion of every bird in the loft, as well as to the pair it belongs to. This, in my opinion, is an extremely erroneous notion, as the Fancier must be in a much greater degree of uncertainty as to the genuine produce of his birds, and of course much less able to give their true pedigree, than if the pennis were enclosed, for I have more than once been witness to the attempt of a strange bird, to tread a hen, which has squatted to receive the tread of her own mate, and no doubt but this sometimes actually takes place when the Fancier is not present to prevent it. Add to this, that the birds are frequently prevented treading their own hens, by the interference of other birds, who will always fly at them, and prevent them, if they are any where about the loft exposed to their view, which must ever be the case in open pennis; but where the pennis have fronts to them, the birds can copulate in quiet, and the strain is rendered much more certain. The birds will also sit better, and be less likely to forsake their eggs, which they will sometimes do, if they are too much exposed. And another advantage is thereby derived; the pennis have fronts of good workmanship, takes off that naked look, and give the loft a much more finished and neat appearance.

A bird has sometimes a crossed or wry beak, which is a very great disfigurement and of course must be as great an imperfection. This may be remedied whilst the bird is young, and running about the floor, and is to be done in the following manner:—That part of the upper beak which projects over the side of the under one, must be pared off neatly, and the like done to the lower beak, which in general curves upward on the contrary side, something similar to the tush of a hog, but they must not be pared so close as to make them bleed; then give the upper beak a gentle bend the contrary way to which it inclines, serving the under beak in the like manner, and by repeating this several times a day, and keeping the curved parts of the beak constantly pared off, as they shoot again, the beak may be got perfectly straight. This remedy will not answer for an old bird, as the horn of the beak is not sufficiently pliable, but is become hard and brittle, and in the attempt to bend, would snap off.

If the Fancier should have any young birds on the floor that are deserted, and not fed by the old ones that should feed them, and are unable to feed themselves, he must get a few beans down them once or twice a day, to prevent their losing ground, and getting poor. This is to be done by putting some beans into his own mouth, and then applying the beaks of the birds, at the same time opening them, and as soon as the birds feel the beans, they will in general swallow them readily; but he must take care not to stop their breath by feeding them too long at a time, their throats being very small just at the swallow, and one bean sticking in that part would choak the bird and kill it; he must also give them some water in the same way, and occasionally put their beaks into the water in the fountain, and they will soon learn to go to it themselves; this is necessary only with such birds as above described, that are backward from having been left too soon. Birds that are obliged to be thus treated, are very apt to get under the feet of the Fancier, as they run to him directly he goes into the loft; he should therefore put such into the area, that he may not tread upon them, particularly if he has any person in the loft with him.

There is a Society of Gentlemen of great respectability formed for the encouragement of the breed of the Almond Tumbler, under the title of THE COLUMBARIAN SOCIETY, who meet almost monthly throughout the year, to dine and spend a cheerful day together, chiefly in conversation upon the Fancy, and to produce such young birds as they may have bred since their last meeting, for the inspection and entertainment of the Society. These gentlemen have a subscription among themselves, for the purpose of giving premiums to such persons as shall have bred (that season in which the subscription is made) the best birds, according to the standard laid down by the Society. The prizes are generally four in number, and divided into two classes, viz. Two cocks and two hens; and the subscription is usually ample enough to allow the first cock and hen, ten guineas each; and the second, five or six each. Sometimes there are six prizes, which are divided in the same ratio, making the prize for the first bird in each class, considerably larger than the others. These prizes are adjudged and determined by a committee of three gentlemen chosen from among themselves, prior to the shew-day, who have not any birds of their own, qualified as candidates for the prizes. On the shew-day the committee assemble, and the birds which are candidates for the prizes are then put into the pennis in an adjoining room, the cocks by themselves in one penn, and the hens by themselves in another, whither the committee adjourn alone, to decide upon the birds qualified to take the respective prizes, according to the standard acknowledged by the members, which the committee have before them, to remind and guide them in their decision. When they have made up their minds, the birds are respectively marked, so as to ascertain which is first, second, &c. And the members at large are then admitted into the room, to claim their own birds, and receive a prize for such of them, as from the before-mentioned marks shall appear to be entitled to one. There is sometimes also a private subscription, or sweepstakes, amongst some of the members, for the best cock or hen bird that has

not taken a prize, which has frequently amounted to ten guineas ; so that it is no uncommon thing to divide between forty and fifty guineas for prizes on the shew-day.

This Society is now, and has been for some years past, held at Gray's Inn Coffee-house, Holborn, London, on the first Tuesday in every month in the year, with the exception of one or two, when the members are likely to be out of town.

I am aware, that in some parts of the country, Fanciers live at too great a distance from each other to meet once a month ; but surely they could meet once a quarter, and by forming themselves into a society, showing their birds, &c. which would improve their knowledge of the Almond Tumbler, and greatly facilitate the study of this bird. I would here suggest that a society might be formed, open to all the world, to show the best Almond Tumbler for the five properties, on one day in the year ; the meeting to take place in the most central part of the country—say Birmingham, supposing it to be the most central for the London, Manchester, Liverpool, Scotch and Irish Fanciers ; but if not approved of—say London, or any other place ; taking care that there are facilities to get to and from, for it might not be convenient for some gentlemen to stop, dine, and spend a cheerful day together in conversation upon the Fancy.

It is not my intention to enter into particulars how a society of this sort is to be carried out, it may be done by subscription, or by Fanciers having to pay a certain sum on the entering of each bird competing for the prize, or both combined. I have no doubt that many gentlemen who are not Fanciers, but great admirers of the Almond Tumbler, would subscribe to carry out the object, and have the gratification of seeing some of the best birds under the Sun.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

I sincerely hope that I should be the last Fancier to instil into the mind of the amateur, (provided I had the ability, or more properly speaking dishonesty) how to make up a bird ; nevertheless I could not conscientiously pass over without informing you of your privileges. You have a right to cut or shorten the beak to the end of the quick, and to scrape the sides of the beak with a sharp instrument, or broken glass, to show it off to the greatest advantage ; at the same time, you have no right to cut or scrape through the quick ; if by accident, you should do so, the bird would not die, yet the experienced Fancier will discover it. The cause of my mentioning this circumstance is, that the young Fancier should not be disheartened, and lamenting that he cannot breed such short faced birds as he sees ; but from his want of knowledge, he may look at the head and beak of birds that have been cut to the end of the quick, and look at his own birds, whose beak have been allowed to grow or run out, and he could have wished his own birds were as short faced. It is possible it might be shorter, but he took his distance for the one to the quick, and the other to the end of the horn. I hope I have said enough here to open the eyes of the amateur, without giving offence to the more experienced, or practical Fancier.

The young Fancier has also the right to pluck or withdraw any objectionable feather, provided he keeps the bird in his own aviary or loft, but has no right to show it for feather ; but if he does, it may be discovered, and if he has done so by way of selling the bird, it amounts to a fraud ; this is what is called in the Fancy, weeding, or gardening.

In your time you may hear some things that will appear strange, and greatly surprise you, listen to their remarks, but I caution you not to repeat them, unless you have been an eye witness. It is possible you may hear of the making up of birds ; I believe the only properties that it is possible to alter is Feather, Head, and Beak. The feather we will take first, by plucking or withdrawing any objectionable feather, called weeding or gardening ; secondly, the head, as I have heard it stated, by employing caps, placed on the heads of young birds in the nest to grow to. It is possible it might have been tried, but as I never saw it

done I discard it and throw overboard as unworthy of belief. But last, the beak ; notwithstanding the above remarks as regards feather and head, there are some few Fanciers, of whom it is asserted they make the beak, (which is so much admired), by breaking the upper mandible when the bird is a few days old ; but it may be detected, from the injury it has received, similar to our own flesh, when we have received a severe pinch ; it may also be detected in the bird when grown up, by the position of the beak, it has an unnatural appearance, the beak pointing upwards. Having made these remarks, (the reason I shall inform you by-and-bye,) I again caution you, my young Fancier, not to make a charge by hearing, or even reading this Treatise, but keep a still tongue and put the question to yourself, how it is possible that you might discover a bird made up as regards head and beak. I informed you just before that the beak has an unnatural appearance of being thrust upwards, which is the opposite of its natural tendency, and likewise at the same time appearing as though thrust further back into the head ; but I will endeavour to give you a better rule or criterion to judge by,—my experience teaches me that these tricks cannot be played upon the head and beak of the Almond Tumbler, without greatly distorting the eye, making it appear very unnatural and greatly offending the eye of the Fancier ; it appears as though it was a weak watery eye, always winking and blinking : at the same time should you, on looking at a bird, believe tricks have been played upon it, but has a full bold beautiful fair eye, I think you would be drawing a wrong conclusion, and if the bird was for sale, you are not bound to buy it, being in doubt.

There are Fanciers who have time on their hands, scarcely ever look at their young birds in the nest, but have got into the habit of stroking the beak upwards ; If they do nothing more than this I do not find fault ; but I know it is the very contrary of what I do, being determined to see what the beaks will come to in a natural way ; owing to this and having very fine beak birds, I should not think there was a Fancier who bred more cross or wry beaks than myself. It is not the fault of the Almond Tumbler, but of the Fancier, in not keeping the beak straight, for they are not hatched crooked or awry, but are wrenched by the feeding of the old ones, and those beaks that we see crooked it shortened and pared to the end of the quick, would look very different. If I examined a crooked beak bird, and saw by trimming its beak to the quick, if it did not exceed five-eighths of an inch, or a little over, I would as soon breed from or sooner, than from a straight beak bird that I knew nothing about ; well knowing how easy it is to keep the beak straight while the bird is young and the horn is sufficiently pliable, but will not answer for an old bird, as the horn is hard and brittle, and in the attempt to bend would snap off. I do not know that it is possible to make up the head of an Almond Tumbler, but this much I do know, that it would be utterly impossible to produce first-rate birds from such. The cause of my making these remarks is, you may suppose that the Fanciers of the present day had not heard of these reports, and this is the reason of its appearing in this Treatise, for I do not like writing on such a dishonest subject, and as I informed you before, that if I possessed both ability and dishonesty combined, I would not instruct you how to make up a bird ; the only way I know of making a good bird is to breed it from two first-rate birds.

I believe there are Fanciers at this time whose judgment of the Almond Tumbler has never been surpassed. and is not likely to be eclipsed ; yet it is possible that the head and beak Fanciers of the present day may persevere in breeding such short-faced birds, as to enable the young and rising Fanciers to breed birds whose distance shall not exceed the half-inch from the iris round the pupil of the eye to the end of the quick on the beak. I have some in my possession as short-faced as I have ever seen, but I never witnessed more than two or three birds whose "Head and Beak," as it is called, did not exceed the half-inch in the whole course of my life. Still, I believe in the course of a few years, that the head and beak will be shortened, and that half-inch distance birds will not be so rare, or considered so great a curiosity as they are at the present time.

When you are going your round at six o'clock in the evening to see if eggs are laid, observe at the same time the eggs that you expect to be hatched on that day; if they are not sprung or chipped, place the egg to your ear, and if you hear a brisk crackling noise within, put the eggs into your mouth, one after the other, and well saturate them with your spittle, repeat this, and it is to be hoped as the shell dries and becomes brittle that it will burst and let out *a little wonder!* I particularly cautioned you to know the day the eggs were to hatch, and that without doubt. If I was in your aviary or loft with you in the evening, and you showed me a pair of eggs that you believed were to hatch that day or the following day, if these eggs had not sprung or chipped, and on putting the eggs to my ear did not hear so brisk a noise in the shell, I should conclude it was to-morrow. It is said to-morrow never comes, but it comes a day too late for you when you find the two birds dead in their shells. I am convinced that better head and beak birds have perished in the shell than ever were hatched, the reason is the amazingly short-faced bird cannot reach the shell with its beak, and perishes in the shell, if the judgment of the Fancier does not extricate it; while, on the contrary, the bird that only comes out to be killed by a good Fancier, (I allude to the rough long-faced bird), soon sticks its beak through the shell, and extricates itself.

Owing to my being pressed for time in preparing this Treatise for publication, I neglected entering into my register the days on which the eggs ought to be hatched, and which has given me both trouble and loss. I will give you two instances of this:—On looking at the eggs, that I knew by my experience were near hatching, I discovered an egg with a large hole in it, the bird alive, strong, and hardy, I considered it was to all appearance time it was out of the shell, I gently dented the shell of the egg all round with my finger nail, it bled profusely, and I placed it back in the nest pan with the other egg, which was addled. At four o'clock next morning I looked to see if the young bird had extricated itself from the shell, the blood had caused the broken shell to adhere closely, and my opinion is, that the parent birds had set heavily, so that it appeared to me as though the bird and shell were jammed together, and the bird apparently dead. I took it to the light, and the fresh air caused the bird to open its mouth, I then extricated it from the shell, but the bird only lived a few hours. In this case I considered that I was a little too fast. In the evening of the same day, on looking at the eggs that I considered were near hatching, and placing some to my ear, I found one egg with the young one within making a sharp crackling noise, this egg not being sprung or in the slightest degree chipped, I could not perceive where the beak was placed, and recollecting that I condemned myself a few hours before for being too fast, placed the egg back, and at four o'clock the next morning, on again placing the egg to my ear, all was quiet and has remained so ever since. I then blamed myself for being too slow. I would caution you against being too fast or too slow, and my advice to you is to "*Remember the Seventeenth*" day from laying the last egg. I lost these two birds from a little neglect, not having entered in the book the day on which the eggs should have been hatched, owing to my time being so much occupied as before alluded to. Had I known for certain, that in the first case I have mentioned it was only the "sixteenth" day from laying the last egg, I might have been more cautious how I dented the shell, and in the second case, if I had known that it was the "eighteenth" day from the laying the last egg, I would not have hesitated in breaking off a small portion of the shell, where to the best of my judgment the beak lies, to let in a little air.

The idea struck me of communicating to you how many hours a bird will live in the shell without being sprung, chipped, or a small hole made in the shell to let in air. I am fearful that the Printer will require this part before I shall be able to define it to my own satisfaction, but I am convinced that it is not long before, or otherwise the bird will be suffocated in the shell; but a bird may live comparatively speaking a considerable time in the shell, where the beak has protruded through the shell and obtains air.

The greatest difficulty you will have to encounter with, is when the birds have set their full time, viz. the seventeenth day from the laying the last egg, and when you place it to your ear a sharp crackling noise is heard from within the shell, by the bird endeavouring to extricate itself, and yet the egg is not sprung, or the least rise on the shell to shew you where the beak lies; under these circumstances I would advise you to put it back for an hour, in the hope that it will become visible where the beak lies, and when you examine the egg again, if you can perceive the rise where the beak lies, pick off a little of the shell on that part to let the young one have air. On the contrary, should it so happen that you cannot by any possibility discover where the beak is, and placing the egg to your ear, you believe that it does not make so brisk or sharp a crackling noise as before, it is a certain sign that the bird is becoming more weakly, that its short beak cannot by any possibility reach to puncture the shell, and that it will be dead in a short time, if it does not immediately receive air; under these circumstances the young Fancier must make a small hole, to the best of his judgment, where he supposes the beak lies.

Of the two evils—"A little too Fast, or a little too Slow," I should advise you to choose the little too Fast; but, remember, I said "little," and the better to rivet it on your mind, would say "very little." The greater part of this trouble may be avoided by a little care on the part of the Fancier, by recollecting the "seventeenth day," and letting the birds have good warm nests, which will greatly assist in hatching the eggs; but with regard to the particularly short-faced birds, whose beaks cannot by any possibility reach the shell, it is otherwise, and no fault of the Fancier. He must pay great attention, by observing the eggs that are hatching, to endeavour to ascertain where the beak lies, and when he is necessitated to puncture a hole in the shell of an egg where the beak is not visible, he should use the greatest caution.

It will not answer to put an egg into your mouth that is much chipped, or more properly speaking, a little smashed, owing to the old birds having set too heavy on the eggs, and the blood within will cause the shell to adhere so tight to the bird; in this case the young Fancier must exercise his judgment, how far he can judiciously and with care (where the smashed shell is dry) pick it off. Again where a bird has sprung the shell, which is always where the beak lies, and the bird appears fixed so tight in the shell that it cannot move about, take a drop of sweet oil, after picking off the shell, if not already off, passing it between the head and the shell, by which means it will be greatly assisted in extricating itself, and many a valuable bird may be thus saved. The cause of my writing thus much on this subject is, that if you are not careful you will lose the birds most desired to be saved, as my experience teaches me, that if the bird to be hatched on the last day (that is the seventeenth from the laying of the last egg) is not out of the shell by the eighteenth day, it must be under particular circumstances that I would leave it there so long; I should not expect to see it out alive. But this requires great judgment. To the best of my recollection, I never heard the bird alive, in the shell, more than twenty-four hours, or so long; and if the beak does not puncture the shell—or you, to let in a little air, the bird is suffocated in the shell.

There are Fanciers who take the eggs from the Almond two or three days before hatching, and place them under a pair of their feeders—such as baldheads or beards which set closer, consequently hatching sharper than the Almonds. It is done by placing the eggs of the Almonds under the baldheads or beards, and *vice versa*; and when the Almonds eggs are hatched, then exchange again. At the same time, it does not follow that their soft meat, or food, is up; although they have set their time—seventeen days. It sometimes happens that their soft food does not come on for two or three days after; nevertheless, you must get them fed from somewhere, otherwise they will perish. It would be uncharitable in me to expect the young Fancier will know all at once; experience keeps a dear school,

and the most experienced Fanciers that ever lived, had more or less to learn in this school. Some of the Almonds do not set close, particularly the old and valuable ones (why I say old and valuable ones, had they been otherwise they would have been discarded); besides they do not appear to have sufficient heat in their bodies to hatch their eggs. When this is discovered, you had better set their eggs at the commencement under feeders, that have laid at the same time, by exchanging their eggs; and this must not be done in a forgetful manner. You may always know when you begin to understand the birds, whether their soft food is on or not, by trying the craw or crop of the birds, and if on, it appears soft and pappy; on the contrary, hard, but will come on in a few days.

When I get a little nonpareil out of the shell, I am lost in wonder and astonishment how I shall get it fed. I have heard it stated that there are Fanciers who keep doves to feed their short faced birds, and I am assured that they feed well, and longer than the pigeon. As I never tried I do not know; but if they will many a valuable short faced bird would be saved. I have before now been placed in such a difficulty with a particularly short faced bird, that after trying half a dozen pair of birds that had hatched at the same time, and yet could get none of them to feed it. I have thought that if I had canary birds hatching at the same time, I would have tried them; and if they fed it for a day or two, then have placed it under pigeons to bring it up. It may be worth trying doves, as they have eight broods a year. The shorter faced your feeders the better, I think they ought not to exceed six-eighths; for if you feed with strong, long-faced, take for example a dragon, one inch and a quarter, or one and a half, you will observe when the little short-faced birds leave their pans, and if very hungry, chase the old ones either in their penn, aviary, or loft, and in their haste to obtain food will thrust its head into the old bird's mouth, or comparatively speaking, down its throat, to meet the food, by which means the young bird's head is flattened, (being soft at the time), quite the contrary of what could be desired, a lofty head; it therefore follows, that by having long-faced feeders, you flatten the head and wrench the beak; but on the contrary, having short faced feeders the young ones cannot thrust their heads into their mouths, neither will the beaks be so wrenched. If the owl pigeon was not so shy, I should prefer it for a feeder. But short faced hardy blue tumblers, beards, or baldheads are very good.

There are some few Fanciers who would not shift oftener than once, neither would I, provided I thought it safe to trust to that shift to finish the birds; but as I do not, I shall write my remarks:—I approve of shifting the young birds at six days; yet giving the old ones an older bird to draw off their soft food, which they generally do in about ten days. It is evident by this that their soft food is not off; but the danger of their being off the young ones a considerable time, suffering them to die of cold, with their crops full, while the old ones are calling to nest again. In your experience you will find as many or more die of cold crammed full, than those that are not fed, and the reason is this: that they require warmth by being sat on, as much or more than they do food. I think crammed as they are, and the food getting chilled or cold, is the cause that accelerates their death. I give the young birds another shift when they are twelve or thirteen days old, under a pair of feeders that have fed three or four days, for the sake of warmth; and now my last shift, however well apparently, the pair of birds feed that have the shift of the birds twelve days old, you will have to ask yourself the question will this pair of birds finish them, by feeding four weeks till they can feed themselves—it may, or it may not be so. You cannot help your thoughts on this or any other subject; but as I do not think it safe, I endeavour for the last shift, to get them at twenty-one days old under a pair of good tempered birds, (for there is a vast difference in their tempers) after they have fed a week or so; calculating that they will feed them well for three weeks, which will finish them and by this time they will feed themselves.

My experience teaches me that I can take extreme cases, and I will give you two that happened, one in my aviary, the other in my loft:—I had a black mottle that picked up the tares, and fed well for three weeks; but at five weeks it left off feeding itself, and as it had lost all idea of being fed, it died. The other happened in my loft where I flew my feeders, a pair of short-faced red agates, bred from Almonds, which would not learn to feed themselves, although would fly round with the feeders, they were fed by one or another in the loft, until they would feed them no longer, and they both were starved to death at two months old. These are not the rules but the exceptions; sometimes it happens that you experience difficulty in shifting a bird so old as three weeks. I am aware that it is easier for the last shift, to shift them at seventeen or eighteen days, the feeders taking to them more kindly. When you shift the birds that have grown pretty old, comparatively speaking, do not let the old birds come and take a sight of them, for here you would witness a strange scene at times, but put the hen upon the young. And it is infinitely better to shift these large birds, at dark, or as near dark as possible, and be sure to put the hen on, and in the morning she will not discover the exchange, or else be reconciled to it; it is very important to change at dark and put the hen on. Should the colours of the birds shifted vary much, my experience teaches me that it is not so much in the size of the bird as the colour—was it it not for the fighting attitude the bird puts itself into at about three weeks—therefore you will see the propriety in shifting these large birds at dark. Generally speaking, it would not do to exchange under your feeders a young white bird, where before they had a black one; and the reverse by shifting a black one, where before they had a white one; the result would very likely be, that a good tempered pair of feeders after looking at and going from it many times, might at last take to it: while the ill tempered pair would kill it at once. You will see the impropriety of shifting colours differing so widely; but endeavour to shift by giving the colour as near as possible.

It is important in your shifting that your nest pans should be the same size and height; for if before your feeders had a nest pan only two inches high, and in your shifting you gave them a pan four inches high, the one comparatively they could walk into, while they would have to jump up to the other and would cause them to be suspicious that all was not right, forsake the pan after killing the birds, owing to a little neglect on your part. You will find it a good plan to put the shifted birds into their pans,, till the feeders are reconciled to the birds shifted, and then you can with safety exchange the pans if necessary, owing to being dirty.

I observed before, the young ones vary much as regards feeding themselves and here I will inform you of my method of treating the young birds to learn to feed themselves. I have a penn two feet square and nine inches high, made of strong wire, the wires not more than one inch and a quarter apart, for the birds will get out if further apart, the wires up and down, and no bottom to it, the floor will form the bottom besides being easier to clean. Let it be wired over the top, as it will give more light; I have mine made in two halves, owing to my aviary being parted, but have an opening in the partition large enough to let a pigeon through, by placing one piece on each side of the partition it again becomes a square, then form within and without the wire-work a frame work of wood, one inch and a half, making three inches together. There is not any need of its being a fixture whether you have them in squares, or halves as I do, for then I can place the half against the wall or any where else; you will find the advantage in having them made in halves. Let this frame work be one inch and a half high from the flooring where the wire work rests, and it will form a kind of trough, fill it up with the best old tares, and at the same time so constructed that the water from your carboys, fountains or other proper vessels, shall come within the wire work; now make all the old birds come to feed and drink where you fix this penn. I informed you before that there is not any fixed rule or time when the young birds will begin

to feed themselves, much will depend on the strength and forwardness of the birds, otherwise, writing from observation, the hardy and forward ones at a month old are more inclined to pick up than at a more advanced age; therefore, it is policy to look round your aviary or loft for these birds and place them inside the penn constructed for them. You will now observe what I have been driving at, and that is, the old birds coming to feed and water, taking care that they cannot get it elsewhere, (only water on the days you allow them to wash,) teaches the young birds to feed and drink.

It does not follow because you have placed them under this penn for the old ones to teach them, that they will feed, but you must have your eye and judgment upon them, and feel their crop or crops if it is filled out with food. To assist you I will now suppose a case, that you have brought down six young Almonds, their ages differing a little, and placing them in a penn in the morning, between five and six o'clock in the evening examine them by feeling their crops, which is easily felt by your hand; should only one have fed full, leave it under the penn, and put the other five back to their places from whence you took them, and the old ones will fill them full for the night; repeat this plan, by putting them under the penn in the morning, and if there is not sufficient food in them in the evening, place them back from where you took them, continue this plan till they feed themselves, which will prove my assertion, that while some birds will feed at a month, others are not safe to be trusted at six weeks; be sure before you draft them off to another place that they feed themselves, for it may turn out that they are fed from old birds about the place (that have lost their young by death or being shifted) through the wires of the penn, as some will feed any young ones about the place, I have tried experiments by way of enticing them to eat, giving them hemp, rape, wheat, &c. but I think these are bad, and often prevent their feeding on tares, which is to be desired while they are young, of which I will give you an instance; I bred a very rich bright yellow whole-feather, beautiful in head and beak, I was very desirous of rearing it, and I decoyed it to feed by giving it hemp, rape, wheat, and tares: it took to wheat, and would eat nothing else; it was now three months old, I was determined to break it off wheat and that it should feed upon tares—it beat me, by dying, for it would not take to tares; nevertheless a little of these might not do harm. The best plan I ever found was to get or sift the tares as small as possible, put some in a small pipkin, pour boiling water over them, and put them into the oven by the side of the fire over night, and in the morning when the young birds were under the penn, I made them a little heap of these tares (taking care that the old pigeons could not reach them) as I supposed about the same warmth as though they had come from the feeders, and the young birds would eat them freely while they continued warm. I think you will find your interest in trying this. You will act unwisely if you put the young birds into the places in the evening from where you took them in the morning, provided they are full; for if they feed themselves keep them to it for a week, and then if you can put the young into an aviary, loft, or parted place, to prevent the old ones from worrying them, they will improve rapidly. The sooner your young birds feed themselves the better, they are likely to be smaller, the beak less wrenched, and at all events the head not less round.

You are not to expect the head of a bird at three months old, to appear as beautifully formed as a bird's head that is three years old; for they fill out, or, more properly speaking, as it is termed by the Gentlemen of the Fancy,—“Make Up,” therefore it will be clear that you require time and experience to know these things. Again, the Almond Tumbler does not arrive at its highest pitch of plumage till it has moulted three or four times; some will still increase in beauty, while others will decline till they become mottled, splashed, or whole-feather. I have now endeavoured to instruct you how to breed and rear the Almond Tumbler.

There are some rich Fanciers who will stand at nothing as regards expence, and where they breed on the floor, cut away the flooring to let in the nest pan flush or nearly so, similar to the basin in wash-hand stands. It can be done in any of the pennis above, by letting the bottom of the pan come through the penn below; or you can have false bottoms to your pennis. The cause of their adopting this plan is, that some of the young birds are restless by some means, and get out of their pans, and after rambling about in their pennis, fall again into their nest pans; on the contrary, if this plan is not adopted, the birds that could not regain possession of their pan owing to being young, or badly fledged, and if the night is cold, you would most probably find them dead in the morning. Many valuable birds are lost, which otherwise would have been saved, had the former plan been adopted. I do not approve of pitching boards projecting before the pennis, but would rather them made flush with the pennis; for merry cocks would be pitching on any of these boards, consequently being higher, would, if they did no further mischief, tantalize or worry the birds to whom the penn belonged.

I think there is no occasion for a penn to be two feet square, it is larger than there is occasion for and appears unsightly. I will endeavour to give you an idea of what I think would look better, a penn two feet long, eighteen inches deep, sixteen inches high in the clear, shifting fronts, the bottom of the door five inches from the bottom of the pen, to prevent the young ones getting out; let the doorway be open to the top, which will be eleven inches high; let it be ten inches wide and placed in the centre of the penn, rabbetted and fastened with two buttons on the outside, the bars not exceeding one inch and a half, mortised in to give a neater appearance. Although I have shewn the advantages derived by sinking the nest pans, I would still have a shelf half way between the top and the bottom of the penn, just big enough and nothing to spare, with a hole in it to receive the pan, and the birds to fly up on the edge of the pan, direct over the pan that is sunk in the bottom of the penn, for it might be that the old ones were setting in the above pans, while finishing off young ones below; the rail of the small door framing forms the pitching board which is flush with the pen; this is one cause why I approve of large entrances to the pennis, but there is still another and greater, and that is preventing them from striking the joints of their wings, greatly injuring them, causing wens and crippling them for life. I should advise the young Fancier to look round and see if there was any thing in the aviary or loft, provided the bird flew or came in contact with; above all things have no sharp edges, let every thing be rounded, even the door ways to your pennis, or perches in your aviary or loft, if you have any. My advice to you is to have as few of these as possible, unless, ironically speaking, you are blessed with a wilderness sort of place for your Almonds, and even then there is danger by a friend but stranger to your Almonds, who might frighten and cause them to injure themselves against these uncalled for and dangerous places. Although I said strangers to your Almonds, it is possible might know more about the Almond than you that are reading, or I that am writing this Treatise, still he is strange to your birds.

I will suppose my birds would be dirty if I gave them a chance, I will set my wits to work and defy them by removing every thing out of their way which would in the slightest degree soil their plumage, I have my aviary and loft scraped up twice a day, and would have it scraped up three times or oftener if occasion required it; on the flooring in my aviaries and lofts, I have eleven-inch deals, sawed into three equal widths, which is nearly three inches and three quarters each, and fixing them edgways on the floors, about twelve inches apart, now these boards being three inches and three quarters high from the ground floor and as the pigeon is fond of resting upon something, prevents their tail and flight coming in contact with their dirt on the floor, provided we would allow any to be there.

Some Fanciers have small deal boxes, similar to boarding-school boys boxes, with a logger hole cut for the birds to go in and out at; it opens at the top, being on hinges, to put in the nestpans or look at the young birds. I formerly used pots in my loft amongst my feeders where I shifted the young Almonds; these were pots similar in shape to a bee-hive; the dimensions were twelve inches high, and ten in clear at bottom, with a flat knob at top to lift it up by; but without any bottom, the flooring forming the bottom, with a logger hole five inches wide, and reaching seven high from the bottom, I could place them anywhere on the flooring of the loft and put the nest pan under them. I used them also in my pennis with Almonds, which kept them very warm, but it is too troublesome to lift off to look at a number of young birds. It did not answer amongst the feeders, the young birds getting out and were killed by the birds in the loft.

So much depends on the circumstances and spirit of the Fancier, and the difference is so great between the prince and the peasant (although a spirited Fancier) if it was their intention to prepare a place for the Almond Tumbler, the prince might construct a place that would astonish those who are not Fanciers, more than the Almond Tumblers; while the peasant would be compelled, comparatively speaking, to breed in a rabbit hutch.

The Fancier best knowing how he is circumstanced for room, will be more competent to mature his own plans; but having tiers of pennis is decidedly the best, as they can be made portable and shifted from one place to another.

I have found in my experience, that after taking great pains in the making of good nests in the pans, that the birds going into other pennis, robbing and destroying each others nest, or by "calling" and making their nest otherwise than I could have desired, that in a week after they had scarce a bit of straw left in their pans; now having many birds this annoyed me, and caused me to think how I could alter it, and here I will inform you how, this season, I have constructed their nest.— My pans are seven inches in diameter at the top, and four inches in depth (both in the clear) but sloped inwards, the bottom of the outside five inches, that they may stand firm if placed on a shelf or the flooring; they are very stout, so that if a bird flew upon the edge of a pan it would not pull it over. I get rush matting (which may be obtained at upholsterers or other shops) and placing the top of the pan upon it cut it round, then getting fresh yellow deal sawdust that has the turpentine in it, which the insects will not come near, take a pint of this and put it into the pan, work it round, still maintaining the shape of the pan by a small pan or wooden bowl, (I once heard a *Professional Gentleman* state that he made the nest in the pans with his lapstone) and then carefully placing the rush matting which will cover the saw dust, forming a lining within the pan, and at the same time retaining the shape of the pan.

While I was thinking of this plan, I had made up my mind to paste in the rush matting, but fortunately for me, in placing it in the inside of the pan, found it spring and adhere so closely that I abandoned the paste. It may be objected to by some Fanciers that the rush matting would harbour the vermin, (they have no right to be in the aviary or loft,) I believe the turpentine in the fresh yellow deal sawdust would prevent that; and at the same time cause great warmth to the eggs or young birds. If through your neglect you have allowed vermin in your aviary or loft, you must exercise great care or the vermin will beat you. It is otherwise with me, for I have declared war against and will exterminate them, should the sawdust fail in keeping away the insects. I will, after having cut a score or two of these rush mattings, place them one upon another in a pail, and then getting the strongest tobacco water, pour it on the matting, letting it absorb as much as it will, then taking them out and putting a few bits of lath or stout wire placed over the pail, placing the matting judiciously so as to drain into the pail that none of the tobacco water is lost (for you will find ample room for economy in the breeding and rearing the Almond Tumbler), and when dry or nearly so, place this over the sawdust and form the inner lining of your nest pan;

and should the tobacco water drain into the sawdust so much the better. I think this would effectually keep them from the nest pans, for it is to them anything but a sweet savour. Nevertheless, if this should fail, they will drive me to argue the cause with them; I will consider what will kill a young pigeon in the nest, or one of these insects; and if there was not any other way left to exterminate the vermin, I would rub a little of the blue ointment on that side of the matting that comes next the sawdust—I said “little” so as not to affect the young hatched bird, a very little would do, and kill all that touch it, without the possibility of injuring the young bird, for it is on the other side of the matting, and if the insects is on the top side of the matting it will most assuredly pass through, where there will be something that will give it a warm reception, and effectually kill it. I do not expect that you will be driven to such extremities, for I think you will find that the sawdust, or the sawdust and the decoction of tobacco combined, will cause the insects if any, to leave the birds that are setting, and get at the bottom outside the pans. You will therefore perceive that it not only keeps the young birds free from insects, but absolutely cleanses the old ones likewise during their setting. It will be as well to put a little straw in the bottoms of their made-up pans; one reason is, they like to set on straw—and the other is, there may be a doubt in your mind as to the injurious effect of the blue ointment; besides it appearing as natural as any thing that I am aware of to the birds. I would not on any account have the straw longer than six inches for the better laying in the nest pans.

You will find your interest in it if you let them have on the floor a small round basket, the wicker about one inch and a half a part, and filling it with straw as before observed, six inches long, it teaches them to find their pennis, they appear to take great delight in carrying it to their nest pans, and leave off robbing their neighbours; it is necessary at times to cast your eye round to see the nest pans, for some few of the birds will carry so much straw to their nest, that it will surprise you how it was that the eggs did not roll off, and if they hatched, the young would be in great danger of falling off the nest, when this is discovered remove a portion, still leaving them a good nest, for fear they should desert it; my pan may likewise be objected to as being too deep, with the sawdust and matting I can make it any depth, as occasion requires.

I observed, in a former part of this work, how restless some of the young ones were, and would get out of their pans and die of cold; might not this restlessness arise from the belly ache? for why should not young pigeons have the belly ache as well as other things? I have now the advantage in having deep pans, for I can take the sawdust and matting away and putting a little straw at bottom will confine them to their pans, for they could not get out of a pan four inches deep in the clear; likewise, the pan being only seven inches diameter at the top, quite large enough for Almond Tumblers, proves the advantages to be derived from these snug pans. When the pans have become dirty and it is necessary to clean them, lay hold of the rush matting and pull it out, scrape it and lay it in the tobacco water, which will kill the vermin, should there happen to be any, dry it and it will be ready for use again; it will be advisable to turn the sawdust out of the pan into the fire: now with respect to the cleansing of the pan, should there be any insects in the porous parts of the pans, either in the inside or outside, attempting to destroy them with clear water would be useless. I formerly used (after my nest pans were washed) to place them in a large tub of tobacco water which I obtained from the tobacco manufacturers, it being stronger than I could make it, this effectually destroys the vermin and nits; some Fanciers wash their pans with soda and water, others after washing the pans thoroughly clean, put them into the copper amongst the soap-suds and soda after “a Great Wash,” as it is called, not forgetting to give the fire an extra poke. If you make your nests as I do with saw dust and rush matting, instead of putting a little straw on the top of the matting use wormwood, a small quantity will do, and it will cause the

insects to leave the nest; be careful in shifting young birds that you do not give a pan with the nest made of wormwood where before it was made of straw, for from the strong smell, the old birds may discover it; but put a little in all the pans.

Whenever you shift young Almonds, be sure and put the number of the pen, or a mark on the pan, by which you will know the pedigree of the young birds, and as soon as pretty well feathered, enter them into a book kept for that purpose: it is useless to attempt to trust to memory if you have a number of birds. You will in your experience find that birds on some days would feed half a dozen young birds, and other days not feed at all; and *vice versa*. with other birds; you must therefore shift the pan with the young birds where they will get fed, otherwise they will die; those old birds that did not feed will sit on and keep the fed birds warm, and feed well the next day; therefore you will perceive that it is quite immaterial where the pan is shifted to, having the number or mark on it; you must also mark the pan when you give them a clean one, and should you be very particular about your nest pans, or use pots to cover the nest pans, have a model made at a turner's, and take it to any pottery, they will make it to your pattern; have plenty of nests made in the pans, and by placing them one in another, say twelve high, the weight and pressure forms them nicely—do not spoil a ship for a halfpenny's worth of tar, or else I leave you to guess what will follow. I am at a loss to know why I should have written so much on the subject of insects and cleanliness, for my birds are not allowed to be dirty, unless it is to put you upon your guard against them. The plan I have adopted with regard to making the nests in the pans with matting, sawdust, and wormwood, this season, has answered the purpose beyond my utmost expectations.

You will have observed in a part of this work, treating on the marks by which to ascertain the colours of young birds in the nest, if the beak has no mark on it but is quite white, the bird will be an Almond; this is true and false at the same time: the Almond will have a white beak, and the white Agate coming from Almonds, also will have a white beak, but the experienced Fancier will, at a few days old, discover whether it is an Almond or white Agate, and so will you my young and inexperienced Fancier. For it is all plain to him who understands, and I will inform you how to discover it,—look at the eye or eyelid, if a white Agate it will appear ferrety, red, and fiery; while the Almond will be the contrary. The other remarks as to the colour of the birds by the beak, my experience teaches me is correct, and the Fancier who first discovered it must have been a very close observer, and entitled to great credit. If you match extraordinary rich feathered Almonds together, you will breed more or less Agates, of various colours—yellows, reds, &c. some of these birds have beautiful pearl eyes; but if you breed a pure white, which is still termed an Agate (owing to its coming from Almonds) which rarely have pearl eyes, otherwise would be considered a curiosity, a proof that you had matched your birds too high, as it is called.

I feel great pleasure in seeing how heartily my birds engage in washing themselves, and should think that a bird was not well that did not wash with great earnestness; if I became possessed of a fresh bird, the first thing I should observe is whether the bird took delight in washing; and if not, should say to myself, this is no favorite of mine, unless possessing some undeniable properties, for I cannot endure a bird dirty in body with a scrubby flight and tail. Deep earthen pans are extremely dangerous, there being no foothold for the birds to get up the sides, and many a good bird is drowned. I will endeavour, my young Fancier, to guard you against such a calamity, by informing you of the construction of my tubs for the washing and cleansing of the birds, my tubs are twenty inches in diameter, six inches high, both in the clear, with four steps all round the tubs equal distances and one inch wide (similar to steps to go down into a bath or a staircase); and should some of your pigeons stand low, and enter the tubs with avidity, and if they get out of their depth, they rush to the sides and climb up the steps, otherwise they would be drowned. There is a small brass plug at the bottom of the tub to

let off the water gently after washing, for you would find the tub and water heavy if you attempted to turn it over, making a terrible mess, besides splashing yourself in the bargain; take especial care that the waste water is drained off cleverly, so as not to make the slightest mess in your aviary or loft; the tubs have lids to cover over after washing, which forms a kind of pitching place for the birds; let the tubs be thick, or place a kind of beading all round the top of the tub about three quarters of an inch wide; if you do not adopt this plan let the top of the tub be rounded, (it is dangerous to have any sharp edges where there are Almonds) for as the birds are coming out of the water after washing they rest upon the top of the tub, which cleanses their flight and tail; if they should happen to draw their wings on the floor, (this is called by the gentlemen of the Fancy drop wings); in the greatest probability they would not do this if the top of the tub was sharp and hurt their feet. I employed a plasterer to form the steps or stairs inside my tubs for washing, who used compo, and it set as hard as stone; it is possible a carpenter or cooper would accomplish it.

I believe few Fanciers ever tried so many experiments as I have, and here I will give you one:—I considered if it was possible to put anything into their water to clear their plumage, and at the same time to destroy the insect, if any were there, without affecting the health of the birds when they drank it. I consulted an eminent chemist upon the subject, it was more than a dose for him; and therefore I had to prescribe, which bothered me a good while in thinking—at last a thought came into my head that if I put soap into their water, believing that it would not hurt them if they drank it, but it might give them a gentle purge, (and recollecting that some Fanciers adopt the plan of taking their shaving box and make a strong lather, and then with their shaving brush rubbing the bird all over to destroy the insects) I got half a pound of soft soap, put into a quart pot, filling it up with boiling water, stirring it up to cause it to dissolve, leaving it in the pot the overnight and then in the morning mixed it with the water they were to wash in; the birds did not approve as I suppose the colour of the water and did not wash. I cannot help thinking if I had acted more prudently, that when I had pulled out the plug to let off the water after washing, then filling up the tubs again and putting in the quart of soap and water, well mixing it, placing the lid over it to let it settle, and keeping the birds an extra day back from washing, but what they would have eagerly plunged into the water—however, I have not tried it. I would advise that the birds should not have the water to wash in oftener than three times a week, unless it is the hens that are parted from the cocks, for some of them are rank sooner than the cocks; but it would not be judicious to match them up so early in the spring, and by letting the hens have the water four or five times a week, greatly cools them and somewhat prevents their calling to nest.

Should it so happen that your taste or fancy lies in having coarse, long-faced, mousey-headed and fiery-eyed birds, then fly them by all means, and not only fly them, but fly them hard, for the harder you fly them, the more rough and coarse you make them. But if, on the contrary, you want them little wonders or nonpareils, short-faced, lofty-heads with good stops, pearl eyes, fine beaks, and less wattled, then above all things “Do not let them fly.”

As regards loam, spare neither pains or expense to get it as good as possible, and soak it in brine, which you can get from your butcher; turn it out to dry, and then only let your pigeons have it during the breeding and feeding season, believing that it is a great help to old ones in assisting them to feed their young, besides I believe in a measure preventing putrescence in the throat of the young birds; the brine in the loam, I think, sharpens the appetite of the old birds, and I know causes them to drink more, which I think assists the feeding of young birds; besides the brine or salt cleansing the throat or craw of the young birds. I let my birds have it only during the breeding season.

I cannot see the utility of mortar where the birds have loam soaked in brine, besides having gravel and grit; on the contrary, I have experienced in my birds

the loss of many an eye through it. Formerly I used to give my birds crushed mortar, and some of them having weakly eyes, I examined them, when there did not appear the slightest sign of a peck from other birds, but appeared weakly, as though dust was in them; I washed them with alum and other eye waters, some of them baffled me, and the birds lost their sight. I began to suspect there was something wrong, and, after consideration took away the mortar, the result taught me that I had removed the cause.

Gravel or grit is absolutely necessary; my birds have always gravel. I think it would be an improvement in getting the grit or small stones that are washed up after a storm or dry windy weather, by the paths or gutters, and taking half gravel and half grit, mix it together; my object in this is, that some of the gravel is so fine, not possessing sufficient little stones, which are so essential to assist in grinding and digesting their food. In giving them gravel and grit this must not be done in a careless or slovenly way, or you may experience what I complained of as regards the eye; for where there is a number of birds flying about the aviary or loft, and coming in contact with gravel and grit causes the dust to get into their eyes, but place the gravel and grit out of their way in flying.

There is scarcely any thing that I would sooner call your attention to, than not to allow, if possible, a single particle of dust in your aviary or loft. I would not have the gravel or grit in my aviary or lofts was it not absolutely necessary, and it is placed very cautiously, after my aviary or lofts are well scraped and swept. It will take you some years before you have tried as many experiments as I have—some to my sorrow, but would occupy too large a space here to give an account of all the results.

With regard to their food, I think there cannot be two opinions, but that beans, unquestionably are the best food possible to give the Almond Tumbler, (provided you can procure them small enough) and I would give them nothing else, even through the breeding season, running the risk of choking a few young ones in the nest, provided I could get all the old ones to feed upon beans, but as some of the very short-faced breeders will not, you are under the necessity of letting them have tares as well. Let your beans and tares be old, and of the best quality that money will purchase, for it will be cheap in the end to you. If the laying out of money is not a consideration to you, and if you ever saw a beautiful sample of very small beans (although new) buy them and lay them aside for two years, and it will more amply repay than laying down wine, or money in the funds. The food next to best small beans, is sound old tares, and prime hard peas; old wheat is nourishing and fattening. It is well to give your birds a change of food, particularly when they are feeding their young, they eat more and feed their young better; but small hard beans invigorates, braces up, and makes your birds hardy.

I will inform you the manner in which I feed and water my birds, after trying all kinds of hoppers, or other utensils, I found the most simple way the best; I informed you that I parted my aviary. I have pieces of wood five feet long, one inch and a half high, placed parallel with the partition, not exceeding two inches distance from the partition: should you find that one inch and a half is enough so much the better, it prevents the birds dirtying the food; there are pieces of wood at each end the width you have it—no bottom, and not a fixture, that you may be better able to free it from dust at times, and by placing bits of wood you can make as many partitions as you please, and give them various kinds of food in the partitions, such as beans, tares, peas, &c. &c. likewise gravel and grit; there is no top or board overhanging it as there is to a hopper, but it is more lightsome, which is an important thing on dark days, amongst the short days.

With respect to the manner in which I water my Almond Tumblers, I am fearful I shall give you a lame account; I use a kind of earthen carboy with an earthen

stand to receive it, (they are both made at the same time at the pottery,) which has holes all around it for the birds to put their heads in to drink out of; it is a clever contrivance, for when I give them fresh water, turning the carboy upwards, the stand receives it; it is easily filled, and prevents the making a mess on the floor. It appears to me that the makers of these drinking utensils have left off making these things, as I cannot possibly obtain one, any more than I can loam pots. Some Fanciers use a stone bottle and making a hole the height they wish their birds to drink from, say one inch and a half from the dish in which you place this bottle. You must make it air tight at top, by placing a bung in, and sealing wax it over; but it is apt to make a mess on the flooring by filling it. You can get a stand made of hoop iron, with three or five legs to come into the dish from which the birds drink, and should the legs not be sufficient to prevent the birds from dirtying the water, which is very important, have a few wires affixed to the stand and make the birds drink through them. Carboys, which can be obtained of the chemist, the size according to the number of birds you keep, and having a stand judiciously made is a very good thing, otherwise a three-legged stool; but whatever you use, keep the water clean and sweet. These are the most simple, and at the same time the best way I have discovered in feeding and watering my birds, besides their partaking of their food and water clean. I have an opening in my partition for the carboy to be placed in the centre, that the birds on either side of the aviary may drink out of the same utensil.

I have observed the great difference in the feather of two birds, the one fed upon beans and the other upon tares; the plumage of the bird feeding upon beans would be rich, bright, and shining—while the other, feeding upon tares, on the contrary, would appear dull, cold, and without any gloss on the feather; the inference I draw is, that beans are to the plumage of the Almond Tumbler, what nitre is to the horse's coat.

It is admitted by all Fanciers that spring water is best for their drink, while soft water is better for them to wash in. I was desirous, if possible, to put something into the water to make it more stringent and bracing, without injuring the birds, I consulted my old friend the chemist, if he would inform me how I could carry my plan into effect, I shall never forget how emphatically he answered me, (looking round the premises at the same time), by saying there was nothing in his warehouses that would so effectually answer the end, as putting into the water a handful of rusty old screws; this I have adopted with great advantage, with the addition of a few lumps of chalk. Some put a handful of green rue into their water, this may be very well, but if you let it remain too long it will become stinking and furr the fountains, or whatever utensil they drink out of. Especial attention must be paid to keep the water sweet and clean, in the first instance to have the utensil from which your birds drink, scalded and kept thoroughly clean; do not let them have more water than will last them one day, and let it be so constructed that the birds cannot by any possibility get into it to wash (which they certainly will do if not prevented) and make it dirty. There cannot be a doubt but that some of the diseases which unfortunately take place in the Almond Tumblers of some Fanciers, arise entirely from a want of cleanliness on the part of the owner of these birds, the putrid state of the water produces the canker in the old birds, by the slime adhering to their beaks.

I object, for fear of adding to this fatal disease, (however clean their aviary or loft may be scraped and swept up), of making a constant practice of feeding the Almond Tumbler by hand, as it is called, of throwing the food on the floor, only letting the birds have as much food as they will pick up at a time. The argument in its favor is, as some assert, that it keeps the bird sharper, and that it will eat with greater avidity; even if this was true I should object to it, for however clean the floor of the aviary or loft might be, when you begin to feed them by hand, some of the birds would dung at the time of feeding, and the beans and tares mixing with the dung might cause or accelerate the canker or other diseases. I am fully

sensible that you cannot avoid occasionally feeding them on the floor, as for instance, if the mornings were exceedingly cold, or the birds deep in moult, you would be desirous that all your birds should share alike when you gave them hemp seed to warm and make them comfortable, for it would be unwise to give them a hopper full as you could wheat; under these circumstances you would be obliged to throw it upon the floor as the birds eat it up, taking care that if the birds dung while eating, not to throw any near that place. I will now return to the subject of their drink. Years back I put rue into their water, I fancied they did not like the rue, and I know they did not drink so much. It may be that I made it too bitter and overdid this as everything else, (prior to my attempting to write a treatise on the breeding and management of the Almond Tumbler, and in this I have caught a tartar.) There is not the shadow of a doubt in my mind, provided I had the ability, strictly adhering to truth, derived from observation that I should overdo this treatise also; but unfortunately for me, I see no fear of that owing to my want of ability, and therefore my young and inexperienced Fancier you must take the will for the deed by having it under-done.

As a preventive is acknowledged to be better than a cure, and having endeavoured to instruct you how to keep your pigeons free from diseases by cleanliness and good management. I should not have called your attention to the subject of their complaints if it was not to have mentioned a case that happened in my aviary, I had a celebrated black mottled cock (well known by many gentlemen in the Fancy by the name of "the schoolmaster") and it was seized with a violent attack of vertigo, or meagrim; not knowing what to do I put it into a round open wicker basket, and took it to one of the most experienced gentlemen in the Fancy, living at Highbury, he said that in all his experience he never had seen one so "drunk," as he called it, and advised me to put it in the dark. I thought it stood in need of something more than putting it in the dark, so taking it to my friend, the chemist, and showing him the bird, we consulted what to do, and came to the determination that if the bird did drink, it should drink that which the chemist prepared for it, as it should have nothing else. The bird did not like the preparation, but thirst beat it and not being able to get anything else, was compelled to drink when it became thirsty, and that freely; it continued in this state about a fortnight without appearing to get better: it pained me to see it in this condition, and very late one night, or early in the morning, after attending a show, and being assured that there was not any cure for it, and if there was, the chances were so great against its breeding, that under these circumstances I made up my mind to kill it. While dressing myself in the morning I heard my groom coming down stairs, and ordered him to kill the bird; but before he got to the bottom of the stairs to the kitchen, where the bird was kept by the fire, I called out to him not to kill it till I had seen it, we both looked at it (for he was a good fancier) and thought it better, we shook the basket and the bird kept on its feet, from this time the bird gradually improved and became as well as ever.

There was something rather remarkable about the hen that I matched to this cock. A Fancier, whom I knew, and am sure he wished me well as a young Fancier, called upon me one evening at my house, and stated that he had a black mottle hen, so good that he could not afford to buy a cock that was a match, and should like me to have the hen, for he was sure that it would do me good; I purchased it, and being very green in the Fancy, took it to a Grand Show, and put it in the penn to hear its merits or demerits, for I knew as much about the properties of the bird, as the bird knew about me, being so "Raw" in the Fancy at that time; the first remark that was made was by one of the most spirited, and I believe not second best, with regard to his judgment, to any Fancier living; his remark was, as soon as I placed the bird in the penn, "I will give you fifty shillings for that black mottle hen." I did not expect to hear that, and therefore reasoned silently that if the bird was worth to him fifty shillings with his great experience, what must it be worth to me? Being desirous of making progress in the fancy, I therefore declined parting with the bird, although a still higher price was offered.

Looking back to my early days in the Fancy I am sure of this, that I oftener got a good bird by accident than by judgment: besides the inexperienced Fancier, when he becomes experienced, can recollect how he has been treated by Fanciers, who ought rather to have encouraged any young Fancier than otherwise. Having occasion to have some alterations in my aviary and lofts, amongst the workmen there was a carpenter who was a flying Fancier, and on shewing him my birds when we came to the black mottle hen, he said, "You bought that of Mr. ——" I asked him, how he knew that? He said he had sold it to him for half a crown, as it did not fly well with his bald-heads, that a charwoman, knowing that he kept pigeons, had brought it to him to see if he would buy it, and he gave her one shilling for it. She said that she had picked it up, while it was eating the oats from some horse-dung in the Holloway Road, one bitter snowy winter's morning; that the poor bird was nearly starved, and might have perished, had not this good woman have saved it. There is not the shadow of a doubt but that this beautiful black mottled hen had made its escape from some good fancier's aviary or loft in Holloway or the neighbourhood; the bird could not fly well, owing to having been confined.

Now, from the cock that would have been dead in two minutes after I had ordered it to be killed (had I not called out) and which I cured of the Vertigo, and the hen nearly lost in every sense of the word, I obtained my strain of black mottled tumblers, which I believe is not surpassed by that of any other Fancier living. My young Fancier, I have two objects in view, in informing you of this, the first is not quickly to despair of curing a bird; and the second is, that it is possible you may obtain a first-rate stud of birds, even through accident, if you will only persevere and become A. 1. in the Fancy.

With regard to the canker, it arises from dirty feeding and putrid drinking, of which the unclean Fancier ought to be ashamed, and it is to be hoped that he will never do so any more. In a former part of this work I called your particular attention to cleanliness. Remove the cause that produces evils, and the effect would follow. But the Fancier may say that this advice comes too late, for his birds have got it, which nobody can deny; this unfortunately being the case, I will endeavour to instruct him how to cure it:—take burnt alum and honey, and rub the part affected every day, and most likely it will be cured; should this not have the effect, dissolve five grains of Roman vitriol in half a spoonful of best white wine vinegar, add it to the former composition, and rub the part affected. Or take half an ounce of burnt alum, half an ounce of gunpowder, a gill of best white wine vinegar, and mix them well together, take one of your pigeon's flight or tail feathers that you will find about your aviary or loft, and anoint the part affected; and if even in the throat, you must use one of these prescriptions with the feather, and anoint the inside of the throat, twice a day. I do not object to the raising the scurf, and cause it to bleed a very little where it can be got at, believing it more effectual. I am aware that there are Fanciers who object to this, thinking it searching enough without. You can try it without, and if it does not succeed, then raise the scurf a little; fortunately for me not having occasion to use these prescriptions, I have never tried the burnt alum, gunpowder, and vinegar, but entertain a high opinion of its effects, owing to the strong assurances I have received from some of the best Fanciers. It is absurd and childish twaddle to assert that the canker arises from the birds fighting; call things by their right name and then I do not object. You may say that the cocks fight, and get pecked on the head; this is true, and if you like to call it sores on the head, I have no objection, and if you apply the prescription, or use a little alum and water, will cure it, but do not on any account say that it is the cause of canker, for if you do you assert anything but the truth.

With cleanliness and care I think your birds will not be troubled with diseases, besides the delight it will afford you of seeing your birds healthy, vigorous, and clean; but if on the contrary—Woe be to you! Fanciers differ with regard to

the treatment of their birds, if unwell, some giving pills made of rhubarb, others giving pills made of bitter aloes, my favorite pill is a compound of both. The way I do is to take a good many at once, when they are not breeding I remove their water overnight, and keep them some hours in the morning without, and when I think they are very thirsty, give them their water as usual, with this difference: dissolve some Epsom salts, and mix it with their water, they being very thirsty will not discover it until after they have drank very heartily; I cannot tell you what quantity to mix not knowing how many birds you intend giving it to; should you have any birds in your aviary, or loft, that are scoured or purged, remove them while the salts are in the water, if any is left, throw it away at night and let them have their water as usual without any salts, then restore the birds that you consider too loose.

I hinted before in a former part of this work that it was possible that I might have over done some things, nevertheless on reasoning, I am not afraid of killing a pigeon, which I would treat as mankind; I will suppose my having a stomach full of hard old beans and a pigeon with a stomach full of hard old beans, and the pigeon got rid of the beans before I did, (for ought I know the beans might kill me), the inference I should draw was, that the pigeon was stronger, or at all events its digestive powers, although I should not be alarmed for fear of killing an old bird, I should act very cautiously where there were young ones, from one hour to one week old, and not give the salts and water where these young birds were, not knowing the effect; it might purge and kill them. If it was possible that in a loft were there were no young birds under three weeks old, the feeders partaking of the salts and water, and then feeding these big young ones, my opinion is, that not any evil would arise, but on the contrary good, inasmuch as it might cleanse, the craw, prevent canker in the throat, and cool the young bird which is very hot, but freely purged, at the same time the Fancier can exercise his own judgment.

Peppercorns are very good to give to your old birds, or those that appear cold, every other day, giving three or by no means exceeding four at a time. They should be taken from the aviary or loft and judiciously placed near the fire for a few days. In my experience if birds are kept too long before the fire they seldom recover, for air is more important to their health than heat—but changes are requisite at times. You will find in your experience some birds that may live one or two years with you that are never hardy or vigorous, and will not match up, but moping about and that even from the nest; unfortunately it happens they have some good properties about them, otherwise we should effectually cure them by cutting off their heads. I consider more birds die of consumption, or wasting away, than any other complaint, and that is a reason why I endeavour to keep my birds fat. There is some little danger here, but not a tenth part to where the birds waste away and die of a decline; sometimes it happens that a bird will fall from its perch on the floor like a stone, and on picking it up will be dead and as fat as butter, no doubt the cause of it was the overflow of blood to the head, and might be called apoplexy. The vertigo or meagrimis arises from the same cause. If I happen to be in my aviary, or loft, and a bird should fall off its resting place, or taken in a fit, I plunge it into cold water as quickly as possible, and give it two compound of rhubarb and bitter aloes pills. There cannot be a doubt but that making a small puncture in the roof of the mouth to let out a little blood might be attended with a good effect, as apoplexy, or vertigo, arises from too great a fulness of blood in the vessels of the head; if you do not let blood, well drench them with the pills.

There are many absurd things recommended for the cure of pigeons too numerous to mention, I will give you one or two—such as spiders wrapped in butter. Where would you find a spider in a genteel house, unless you went into the wine cellars, and there your cobwebs are ornaments, as mirrors or glasses are to your drawing room. If there is any charm it arises from the butter; then again giving them three or four cloves of garlick. When I got garlick for my pigeons it so happened

that it was the first and last time, for when I had stripped it and came to the clove, I thought I would give it if I wanted to choak my bird, but not having such a desire I refrained from giving it; likewise giving them a purge of tobacco—these things are too troublesome. It is possible you might get the garlick down the throat by quartering it, and then four cloves making sixteen pieces: a pretty treat to a Fancier if he has anything else to do, or to crown all, get tobacco water down their throats to give them a purge.

I am fully sensible that the Almond Tumbler Fancier has a great command of temper and patience, but he need have the patience of Job to try these things. My young Fancier, I have not the power or right to prevent you from trying all you hear or read as to cures, but shall content myself with following my old fashioned way of considering a preventive better than a cure. I am aware that there are complaints over which we have no control—for instance: a bird even from the nest never having a sound constitution, the vertigo or meagrim, fits, &c.; but if I have a bird very ill, from whatever cause, or bad eyes, &c, I take it to my friend the chemist, and he treats it as he would you or me, and I should advise you, my young Fancier, to do the same, and the sooner you take it after you have discovered something wrong in the bird the better. According to your station in life, you may have an intimate friend or companion a physician, surgeon, &c, and as they are gentlemen by education, their good sense will teach them if you broach the subject to them, that it was not intended to insult them. I cannot inform you, otherwise I would, what it was that cured the black mottle cock of the vertigo or meagrim, not considering it a fair question to put to my friend the chemist. Very old tallow the size of a bean is an excellent thing for the roop, (whether it is the wet or dry roop, which is a cold and cough,) put down their throat, heals their breast, and eases their breath; and it is possible some good may arise from the butter (but the spider?)

It is possible, from reading this Treatise, that if two birds were in the penn, the one a carrier, the other an Almond Tumbler, you might be able to discover the Almond Tumbler, from the great difference of the birds, but when you come to know that the one-sixteenth part of an inch excites the admiration of good Fanciers, it is infinitely more appreciated, and greatly enhances the value of the bird. I have endeavoured to root and ground you in the most important things connected with the Almond Tumbler, by calling your particular attention to the five properties to breed a good bird; how to raise it by its food and drink, and then to preserve it alive for nine, ten, or more years by good management and cleanliness, besides other things connected with the management of the aviary or loft.

If you do not keep a man or boy to look after your birds, when you go into your aviaries or lofts whatsoever you have to do, do quickly; not to saunter or idle away your time as though to shew how lazy and sleepy you can be, but let "quick" be the word. It will avail you nothing, whether the Author thinks little or much upon the subject, provided you do not think for yourself. If you have never thought before, and the perfections or imperfections of the five properties of the Almond Tumbler cause you to begin thinking, the Fancy will be a blessing to you, for you cannot think hard or deeply on the Almond Tumbler, without thinking on more important matters.

Should you, after reading this Treatise, be in doubt on the properties of an Almond Tumbler, the only thing left me to do is, to advise you to look to the Portrait at the beginning, to guide your judgment in the choice of such birds as are likely to be of service to you. With my Friends I have often stated it to be my intention to write a Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, I abandoned it, after finding it was my master-piece; but the Exhibition, comparatively speaking, in everybody's mouth; I could not take up a newspaper, periodical, or any new work, without its appearing to me all Exhibition: that some of the people of All Nations were about to exhibit something, I thought I should like to Exhibit too;

but what to exhibit bothered me: after some little consideration the idea struck me of the Almond Tumbler, believing that the people of All Nations had not contemplated bringing out a work of this kind, and that it would be too bad not to present the young and inexperienced Fancier with a Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, at the time of Exhibiting, for these reasons I would make an attempt even should I fail; when the work is printed, and I come to read it over, I expect to be vexed, owing to omissions, which I should have had great pleasure in communicating to you.

"There is a time for all things," as the Wise Man observed, and the time has now arrived for us to part; but in bidding farewell to my reader allow me to suggest, has the perusal of the foregoing pages been the means of making you, my young Fancier, a more ardent admirer of the Almond Tumbler? do you see fresh beauties while studying the properties of this much admired bird? and do you feel a determination to excel in this pleasing and intellectual study? if this is the effect it has produced in your mind, I shall consider myself fortunate in producing such a result, and I do most sincerely hope that you may experience as much pleasure and satisfaction as I have myself enjoyed.

Hoping that you may long enjoy this pleasure and the intercourse of intelligent and agreeable Brother Fanciers, and that you may be able to exclaim,—Happy is the man that forsakes his vices, and becomes an enthusiastic admirer of the Almond Tumbler, is the sincere wish of

THE AUTHOR.

FINIS.

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TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

BY
JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

Dedicated to the Young and Inexperienced Fancier of the Almond Tumbler.

"All that a Man knows, or ever will know,
is by Observation or Reflection."—LOCKE.

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Contents of the Work.—Dedication, description of the Five Properties of the Pigeon, Feather, Shape or Carriage, Head, Beak, Eye, of Pairing, Laying, Hatching, Shifting, Moulting, Vermin, Aviary or Loft, Penning the Birds, Nest Pans, Marks by which to ascertain the Colours of Birds before Fledged, of Drafting, Barren Birds, Washing, Flying, Food, Drink, Diseases and their Cures, General Observations, &c. with a beautiful Portrait of the Almond Tumbler in three Colours, taken from life.

TESTIMONIALS OF THE PRESS.

BELL'S LIFE, JULY 6th, 1851.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER. BY J. M. EATON.—The Almond Tumbler is one of the most beautiful of Pigeons in shape and colour of plumage. Its colour is black, white, and yellow; and the author says that the Fancier, "in his efforts to obtain yellow, will produce a rich almond colour, usually called the ground, and from which the bird derives its name." Never was a man more enthusiastic than Mr. Eaton. No Arab of the desert ever attended with greater care to his stud of thorough breeds than does Mr. E. to his "Stud" (that's the name he uses) of Almond Tumblers. A perfect Almond Tumbler is to him what the Flying Dutchman is to Lord Eglinton. He adores the bird as the Egyptian did the red ibis. We cannot but admire his harmless pigeon worship, which he justifies by informing us, that not only our good Queen is a fancier, but that even Bonaparte was one. That certainly we did not know of the Emperor. The book contains everything that is necessary to teach us how to breed and rear, to the utmost perfection, this pink of pigeons.

MORNING ADVERTISER, JULY 19th, 1851.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER.—By JOHN MATTHEWS EATON. Published for the Author.

"Let every man speak of that to which he hath devoted study and attention—I mean not mere book-reading, but observation and experiment—and he cannot fail to add to the general stock of our knowledge." So wrote John Locke. And another great man observes:—Too much praise is given to mere writing of words in lieu of teaching things; I have heard with respect and profit a country blacksmith speak learnedly, nay, eloquently, on the welding of iron. He was master of his subject, and went quite beyond me." Every candid man must have felt this when he came suddenly on a book treating, almost upon the exhaustive system, on a peculiar subject, with which the writer was acquainted in its minutest details: and such is the book of Mr. J. M. Eaton on the "Almond Tumbler." The uninitiated will smile at the enthusiasm of Mr. Eaton, but we can tell them that, without some spark of enthusiasm, nothing excellent was ever produced; for without it there can be no perseverance, and without perseverance nature refuses improvement.

The cultivation of man is ever rewarded; by it the crab becomes the grateful, the wholesome, the handsome, and the refreshing apple; the poisonous tuber of the night-shade family the esculent potatoe; the wild acrid daucus, the sweet, edible carrot; and to point, in the mass, at every product of agriculture and horticulture would be only legitimate proof of the position. In the animal world, too, what beauty of form, utility,

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and adaptability to the purposes of man may be attained, let the horse, the ox, the pig, the sheep, and the feathered denizens of the poultry-yard, testify. Here the dovecote puts forth its claim. And, if flower-cultivation have its enthusiasts, why not the improvement in beauty of form, colour, and carriage of the most poetic and certainly classic of birds?

The dove has for ages figured in poetry. In the book before us, the beauties of the bird of Venus are dwelt on in plain prose.

To return to matter-of-fact. Mr. Eaton's pages give more minute, sound, practical, and available instruction and advice, as to the means of procuring, propagating, preserving, and discriminating, the merits of the most beautiful of all the varied breeds of the Columba, to wit, the Almond Tumbler, than any writer who has preceded him. In fact, his is the monograph on this subject.

A portrait, printed in colours, depicting a most beautiful and rare specimen of the breed (in possession of the author) faces the title-page.

MINING JOURNAL, JULY 26th, 1851.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER.—
By J. MATTHEWS EATON. London: Published for the Author, Islington Green.

The notice of a work expressly devoted to the study of the breed and management of Pigeons may, at first sight, appear out of place in a publication confining itself to the higher branches of science and the arts, but when we consider that the rising generation among our Cornish miners are great pigeon fanciers, and also that a fondness for the rearing of dumb animals, and watching their habits and their instincts is at least an innocent, if not an edifying pastime during the hours of relaxation, we have no hesitation in calling attention to this publication, the result of upwards of many years' experience in this, to some, fascinating occupation. Although stated to be "on breeding and managing the Almond Tumbler," we apprehend it will generally apply to all description of Pigeons, although more expressly and particularly drawn up from the habits of the former; and the author states he has been induced to publish the work from a wish to place in the hands of the young fancier a treatise from which he might obtain upon his favorite subject both information and amusement, and at a price within the reach of all, there not being at present to be obtained a work of such a nature without much difficulty. In the treatment of the subject the author has avoided all ambiguity, eschewed low flash terms, and stated his advice and meaning throughout in plain English, though he appears to us somewhat enthusiastic in his valuation of the enjoyments to be obtained from this study; this, however, is excusable, and probably an advantage to the young reader. In the description of the Almond Tumbler, the management of them in feeding, pairing, hatching, &c. their treatment under diseases, and an insight here and there into the "shows" of the higher classes of fanciers, the author gives convincing proof of much practical experience in the subject he writes upon; and to those who are yet tyros in this department of education we strongly recommend the volume, which contains a beautifully coloured portrait of a valuable Almond Tumbler in the possession of the author.

MORNING POST, AUGUST 19th, 1851.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER.—
By JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

Pigeon fanciers will derive great pleasure, as well as very useful information, from reading this little book, about the most beautiful of pigeons; and the portrait of one of them in the frontispiece will satisfy any one how well the subject of it deserves attention. The name of this valuable species is derived from its colour, because the ground or foundation of the feather should be a rich bright almond or yellow colour. "The standard authorised or laid down by the Columbarian Society, as regards the feather is as follows:—Three colours, namely, black, white, and yellow in the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from their extremities, and twelve in the tail; the aforesaid three colours, well developed, would constitute a standard, but the back, breast, and rump, should be likewise variegated, to be complete in feather; the hackle or neck feathers should be bright and well broken with the same colours, and should resemble the delicate touches of the pencil of a fine artist." But in the opinion of Mr. Eaton, the shape and carriage of this bird is its noblest property, and to secure this perfection of shape and feather, the greatest care and skill in breeding and management is required. The tendency to degenerate, which is observed in the Almond Tumbler, demands the exercise of judgment and experience for its counteraction; and we believe that young fanciers may safely place themselves under the guidance of our author. His knowledge of the habits and character of the bird appears to be complete, and he has taken pains to omit no point upon which his readers could desire information or advice.

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH, AUGUST 31st, 1851.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE ALMOND TUMBLER.
By JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.—The author (residing at 7, Islington-green) has, under the above title, published a very useful little manual regarding the "Almond Tumbler," a pigeon of very beautiful form and peculiar plumage. The matter is ample in its range of subject, copious and plain, so far as the directions for management, breeding, training, &c., go, and the evident pleasure the writer seems to have taken in his subject, makes his book a very agreeable as well as a very instructive one.

NOTES

ON

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING THE

ALMOND TUMBLER.

BY AN OLD FANCIER.

TO THE YOUNG FANCIER,

I shall endeavour here to be as brief as possible, fearing I have ran out farther than I intended. Some time after I had written my Almond Tumbler (1st of May, 1851), I received letters from JOHN BOYS, Esq., Magistrate of Margate, a rare and experienced old Fancier, who took two copies of my Work on the Almond Tumbler; after reading it over he highly complimented me on my production, stating, that it was his intention to have written a Work himself, but, having carefully read over my Work, he abandoned the idea, and very kindly offered me all his manuscript and marginal notes, to make whatever use I thought fit of them; "and what use do you think I made of them?" to hand them down to you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly, to digest; at the same time giving the credit to the observer, JOHN BOYS, Esq., Magistrate of Margate, for his observations.

I am particularly desirous that the Fancier here should not by any possibility overlook or forget, that whenever he is called at this part of the Work with regard to the page, it has reference only to the Work published 1802—1804; either of the years will do, as the one is only a re-print of the other, entitled—A new and complete Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler, by an Old Fancier (name not mentioned); but the great unknown was no other than — WINDUS, Esq., Solicitor, Southampton Buildings, Holborn; and, as far as I can, I wish to keep the names of old and experienced Fanciers alive, that when I refer you to the Columbarian Work, I shall refer you to the Author — WINDUS, on whose Work JOHN BOYS, Esq.'s remarks apply, and that only; and it will be policy if you can obtain one, which I believe you cannot.

On the 7th of October, 1851, I received his Book, with his marginal notes, and having an exact copy of the Work (A new and complete Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler), I copied his notes into a fellow copy, word for word, with this little difference:—

"This day, Oct. 7th, 1851, received through the Post, the work on the Almond Tumbler, and dedicated to the Gentlemen of the Columbarian Society, with the remarks and notes of JOHN BOYS, Esq. Magistrate, &c. of Margate, for which I feel grateful, and shall fill them in this book, as he has done in the book he has sent me.—JOHN M. EATON."

"The notes and corrections in this book have been made, some ten, some twenty, and some thirty years ago, and up to the present time, as they occurred to me from experience.

Margate.

JOHN BOYS."

WINDUS, p. 4 and 5. His remarks as regards the prices of Almonds,—
"M. 1805 and 6. Excellent birds were to be had at five guineas a pair, although occasionally they reached from ten to fifteen guineas; they are much improved since that period, but most difficult to be met with."

Page 6. "Those who criticise and scoff at this Fancy should take care not to become a Florist Fancier, or an admirer of improved Horses, Dogs or Sheep; nor exchange his ignorance for the knowledge of the best Piccatees, Dahlias,

Tulips (worth ten and twenty guineas a piece), Roses (of which there are 1500 varieties), Anemonies, Heart-ease, Ranunculusses, Auriculars, &c. &c. &c."*

Page 7. Writing from experience, "and by practice and experience to know how to mix and improve the color of the Feather by the matching of the males and females." Writing of what are beauties and what are imperfections: "Those whose experience enables them to produce variety of Feather, may, by the matching of the parents, also learn something of Nature's laws in the marriage and qualification of human parents, both in personal forms and principles, by inheritance either of health, disease or sense."

Page 12. On the handling of a Pigeon: "The mode of handling a bird shews at once whether the holder is a Fancier, or not even a wild and violent bird will become quiet in the hand of an experienced Fancier." On a badly formed head, "which is termed Mous-ey."

Page 13. Writing on the property, beak, "it should never exceed six-eighths, at the present day some are barely five-eighths.—1848."

Page 14. "The Lofts. The best Fanciers will devote three or four rooms to his birds." The area; "by keeping the birds from strangers, and taming them with hemp seed to feed out of the hand, they may be caught and handled as easily as a dog or cat."

Page 15. On drafting young birds into another aviary. "By all means."

Page 16. On laying: "an experienced Fancier will always know within a few hours when the hen will lay her first egg of another nest; and I have found, in general, that a cock will not hunt and peck his hen so fiercely when his hen droops and laps her wings; but where he does he should be caged close to the hen's nest until she has laid her first egg."

Page 17. On the warmth of the loft or aviary. "But warmed air is most valuable." On dust: "All dust on the floor is certain to settle upon the oily feathers, and make the birds look filthy." Objecting to a cat in the loft; "I strongly object to a cat's guardianship."

Page 18. On pairing; "In 1851, I had only two thin-shelled eggs, and Paired twelve young ones in very cold weather, from sixteen pairs hatched in February."

Page 19. Advantage of separating birds; "Birds separated during winter may be rematched with perfect ease in February."

Page 20. On counteraction; "except as to their being both of too much feather, in which case they produce white and blind or purry-eyed birds." On not matching birds too high; "in this I quite agree, JOHN BOYS, 1849."

Page 21. On dun colour: "But on breeding for feather, they are most useful in high bred matches. A dun in general, is a brown black, or a black brown; at least, it is a very bad black, and sometimes a blue black. A good dun, in its first plumage, should shew a silvery appearance, that is, should seem to indicate that in its first moult it would become silvery."

Page 22. On pairing: "I recommend that pedigree in this case be attended to, for doubtless a parent, or grand-parent, of almost every splash may

* Page 6. J. M. E. His marginal notes here apply to those Splatherers, who (as Solomon beautifully observes, "you may bruise in a mortar, and yet you cannot obtain gumption out of them") ridicule the Pigeon. It may be pardonable in some of these, simply because they are void of brains, not having been handed down to them; or they may have received an injury on a "large pimple," growing out at the top of the neck, which will never come to a head. But it is unpardonable in learned men, who attempt to write upon the Pigeon, who only burlesque the Pigeon; nevertheless, do not be ill-natured to such, but throw around them your mantle of love and charity as I mean to do, and to deeply lament and regret that learned men should attempt to write on a subject they do not understand.

be traced, and if that parent was defective in any other point, the match of a young splash should be considered and regulated accordingly ; in reference to the hen he should have the splashes often fail in eye."

Page 23. On preventing a cock getting master of two pens: "I had one unruly cock, and could only cure him of his tricks by swinging him round and round until he was so giddy that he could not stand, and then put him into the breeding place where he had so trespassed, and the pair so trespassed upon gave him a sound thrashing, and forced him down from the nest, after which he desisted and gave up the point."

Page 24. On nest pans: "eight and a half inches out to out at top; three and a half deep, seven and a half wide bottom, outside. This is the admeasurement of my pans made on purpose. (Four dozen.)"

Page 25. On straw: "Oat straw is best."

Page 26. On the cocks worrying and driving hens to nest: "I think this is a useless precaution unless the birds are crowded. After the hen has laid the first egg, the cock becomes quiet, and whenever she is separated from amongst the crowd of other birds, he in general ceases to drive her; and it is better to leave them to themselves and to the instincts of nature, unless the cock be quite violent."

Page 27. On laying first egg: "Or soon after;" on second egg: "More frequently nearer about two o'clock."

Page 28. On laying; observes, see Page 37. "Quite unnecessary; warmth only is necessary; wrong and dangerous."

Page 29. On laying: "The necessity for this has never yet come under my observation, 1849; nor since.—J. B., 1851." "I have saved many an egg dropped on the floor, by placing a very small quantity of hay or straw under or round the egg, and watching that hen that will go to it, and, when discovered, I have put the egg into the nest intended for her, and shut her up until she has laid the second egg."

Page 31. On parting the birds: "I recommend the middle of September; because, late bred birds will otherwise be moulting in cold weather, and when this is the case, they seldom or never become strong and healthy, without artificial warmth, and much trouble. When a bird from a valuable breed happens to be hatched so late as in the second week of October, and if it be much desired to save it, the best plan is to let its parents or nurses lay once more, and compel them to lay in the nest where this young valuable one is, and by this means the parents will always be sitting on the new eggs with the young ones, and thereby the additional warmth will save it; then break the eggs and destroy the nest, about ten days after being sit upon."

Page 33. On barren birds.—See a note at the foot of page 34.

Pages 34-35. On hatching; "I think the author is mistaken on two points in reference to barren birds and the providing of soft meat. I have a pair of red mottles that have brought up four nests in the season of 1849, without once laying, but with a severe driving to the nest by the cock; upon each occasion I first gave them sham eggs, which I cheated to believe were laid on the first and third day, and upon one of those occasions when they had only set ten days I happened to have an odd young one, just hatched, and of little value, and for the sake of experiment, I put it under the barren birds, to try if they could furnish soft meat before the proper time, and I was agreeably surprised to find that they could and did supply it, although not so effectually as if they had sat the full seventeen days; but nevertheless, the supply was sufficient to save the young one, and they brought up the young one to be a remarkably strong one. It should, however, be mentioned, that I gave the barren birds a mixed food or refuse—rice and bruised hempseed, in addition to what they could pick up out of the pigeon-house, and they became as good nurses as the other birds that bred in due course."

Page 35. On eggs springing and chipping.—See page 37.

Page 36. On the least effusion of blood will be fatal to the foetus: "not quite fatal."

Page 37. On hatching; "My practice was always as follows:—early on the seventeenth day if the egg remained entire and unchipped, I put the egg into a tea-cup full of water, blood warm, and the hollow part of the egg where the beak was, would always float uppermost; I then punctured the shell at that part to give air, and took away so much shell as was free from the caul or membrane, and then put the egg under the parent. In the evening, if no progress had been made, I cracked the egg-shell all round with my thumb nail, and on the following morning I found the young one had always been hatched, unless any blood had been shed by the operation.—J. B."

Page 40. On shifting; "sometimes the seventh."

Page 41. On shifting; "In general there should not be a greater length of time than seven days. I very seldom exceed three or four days and when the difference is so great as nine or ten days the young ones begin to show the color of their feather, and in consequence thereof the old ones will sometimes on discovering the cheat, kill them or turn them out of the nest; this however occurs but seldom." It is an excellent plan to remove the pans of young ones by slow degrees, i. e. from shelf to shelf downwards to the floor, where by placing clean straw in a warm corner the young ones of ten or twelve days old, on getting out of their nests will resort and cluster together, thereby obtaining constant warmth from each other, being fed by all the old birds that have young ones on the same floor, which is always the case. I have seldom less than five or six in a nest in this manner, at one time, on the floor.

Page 42. On hen with egg; "after the birds are paired the hen will go seven or eight days with egg before laying." On shifting; "How is this to be accomplished without endangering the nurselings placed under the care? The plan is not a good one in my opinion."

Page 44. On marks to ascertain the colour of birds.—See page 21.

Page 45. On marks, &c. "Several of these points are correct, but this is not to be depended on."

Page 46. On drafting young birds; "In this respect great caution is required; a young one should have eaten alone three or four days before being separated from its parents; for, upon being put amongst strange young ones, they will always at least cease to feed heartily and perhaps not at all, lose flesh, and become ill: the best plan is to draft them in the morning, and if towards evening their crops are empty, remove them back again to the parents until the following morning, and repeat this for two or three days, when they will do well, and may be finally separated safely. (1847.)"

Page 47. On drafting young birds and their food; "Fine refuse; rice at all times in the breeding season, or wheat, tares old, ticks olds, hemp in very small quantity, and very seldom on rape; and canary I object to."

Page 48. On barren birds.—See page 34.

Page 51. On vermin, and blue ointment; "on each side of the breast bone; but it is too violent and dangerous a remedy upon a very valuable bird."

Pages 52-53. On fumigating; "My plan by fumigation has been very successful as follows:—Make a large brown paper bag with a hole through the bottom sufficient for a bird's head to be passed through it, put the bird in the bag with its head outwards through the hole, and then with fumigating bellows fill the bag with very strong tobacco smoke, taking care that the bird's head is kept on the outside, so as to breathe good air; in three or four minutes every insect will be killed, and set the bird at large; where eggs and knits are deposited amongst the neck feathers, repeat the fumigation about in the ensuing month.—Qu. Would not an oiled silken bag be more manageable and useful?"

Page 54. On vermin. "The common Pigeon Louse and Feather Louse are otally, and in all respects, different. Pigeons kept clean never have fleas. I have

never tried this, fearing to destroy by the alkali in soap that oily coat which is on the feathers, and for a time keeping the bird much warmer than otherwise—a bird so treated is like a sheep shorn in cold weather." See M.S. note in the 52nd page.

Page 55. On vermin on fresh birds; "Unnecessary in the country, where birds are kept clean; but all newly added birds should be examined and cleaned."

Page 58. On plumage, rain, and water: "Unless the spring water is from a chalky soil."

Pages 58-59. On flying the birds: "And especially if the loft is kept free from dust and dirt. On the contrary, more than half of my flyers are by good usage quite tame, and when I seat myself in an arm chair on the lawn, fly to me and surround me, several of them letting me handle them, and playing with me by pecking my fingers and cooing. This is quite true, I have a pair of red mottle, bred from Almonds, whose grandmother was a red, and both tumbled beautifully."

Page 60. On loam: "A bank of street sweepings, where the roads are daily watered with sea water, is superior to all other methods. The birds will always be upon the bank on account of the salt, and they swallow a quantity of fine gravel on that account."

Page 62. Gravel.—See the note at the foot of page 60.

Page 63. Mortar; "Mortar dust will greatly injure the plumage, and I never admit mortar; the dusty strong alkali, which, by settling on the feathers, kills the oil of the plumage, and the birds are always dirty."

Page 66. On their food: "I do not concur in this; if the food is damaged Nature points out to the old ones not to touch it, if they can get other food. Good old wheat and tares, old tick, and refuse rice, are the best articles of food, placed in hoppers, so that the old ones can always get which they like. The palate is their safest guide, having plenty of choice."

Page 67. On change of food.—see page 47. "Beyond a week or ten days at one period, change of food is of great advantage."

Page 68-69. On the healthy state of the birds: "In this year (1849) from five pairs of well bred birds I reared thirty-two young ones, by the aid of nine pairs of common Tumblers, as nurses, and by shifting the young ones of those high bred birds that deserted them. But I also attribute that success partly to diet, which I constantly watched; their principal food was old tick beans, and tares; but, for a day or two before hatching, I always gave the old birds a little refuse rice and hemp-seed every morning and evening, until the parents had fed off their soft meat. By care I never lost a bird; for, in addition, I also watched the time of hatching, and frequently broke the shell of an egg when the young one was not strong enough to extricate itself, by first puncturing a small hole near the beak to give air, and on the following day cracking the shell all round the egg. The first nest in April all failed from cold weather; from the second set in May and June, I obtained five young ones; from the third set in June and July, I obtained six young ones; from the fourth set in July and August, I obtained nine young ones; fifth set in August and September, I obtained six young ones; and in the sixth and last set in September and beginning of October, six more, making altogether thirty-two. After this, and as soon as the old birds began to show signs of going to nest again, I separated male from female, putting the young ones under the nurses. During the whole season I did not lose a bird either by disease or accident after the first three or four days." (J. B., November, 1849.)

Page 70-71. On parting the birds after breeding season.—See also page 31. "One of the methods to check going to nest again, is to make them, if you can, feed as many young ones as possible, as they are seldom with egg again whilst so feeding, and more especially if their pans be taken away. The feeding lowers the old ones, but not near so much as going to nest again; and by

this method your young ones become much stronger birds, and more fitted to begin moulting before winter sets in." Page 72-73. "No sound Fancier will keep his birds together in winter. I think this of but little importance; well managed birds in a roomy loft are best left to themselves; where crowded, the remarks will apply."

Page 74. "Query.—Was the above remark worth publishing?"

Page 75. On diseases: "I have never lost but one young bird from this disease [canker]; it is in fact a cancer, and in my opinion is hereditary amongst the highest bred birds when kept upon bad food, and in a filthy state; or why should I have escaped it amongst at least five hundred young ones."

Page 80. The roop: "Has never attacked my birds."

Page 81. The vertigo or meagrim; "Thirty-six years ago when my collection of Dragons (about thirty) every morning brought me from London, in slips, the leading article of the Morning Post newspaper tied round the leg, I had three birds attacked, but they recovered on resting them and giving good food. (Note in 1850.)"

Page 83. On the staggers; "I have never had a bird die by being attacked by either of the last three diseases, which I attribute to care, diet, regimen and flying at large in fine weather." On scouring or purging; "The astringent quality depends on the soil from whence the water issues, or the quality of the pipes which convey it."

Page 84. On small pox. "This disease never visited my birds."

Page 86. On a Fancier scarcely knowing his own birds, when sore in moult: "This is as true as it is remarkable." On moulting; "Especially the late-bred young ones, which should be kept in warmer rooms, or at least where the cold air is excluded."

Page 92. On a bad eye, most difficult to counteract; "So I think. (J. B.)"

Page 93. Sexes; "difficult to tell."

Page 94. Sexes of young birds: "By no means so easily decided until after they have moulted."

Page 97. On feeders: "I am rather adverse to keeping common birds for feeders, and prefer inferior bred Tumblers, Bald Heads, or Beards; but they have this evil—by their constantly flying and tumbling, they encourage the young high-bred birds to fly so much as to make them rather coarse, which is worse than shutting them up altogether. All birds with wings should be allowed to use them in moderation only."

Page 98. On young birds deserted, on getting food down their throat: "The present breed of small Almonds will not admit of beans. Give them sound old tares or wheat."

Page 100. On laying second egg: "If in good health: but if in a weakly state, it will be at two o'clock or later." On the Portrait of WINDUS's Almond Tumbler: "In 1850 I bred a black mottled cock, whose carriage in my opinion so far exceeded the representation here shewn in profile, that I employed an able painter to make an oil painting of the bird, but instead of preserving the black mottled feather, I gave the painter a richly Almond feathered bird to copy instead thereof, so that now I have an oil painting of as perfect and bright an Almond as can be produced to my taste. The two birds were caged for the painter's guide."*

* These Observations and Remarks are, upon the whole, true to the letter, which you will find in your experience; at the same time I do not exactly agree with all that JOHN BOYS, Esq. remarks, not having time to tell you the why or the wherefore; nevertheless, I believe, if you read over my ALMOND TUMBLER, it will throw light upon the subject; but expecting to appear before you again in a short time, my Young and Inexperienced Fancier, is the cause of my taking leave of you so abruptly, although it is not my intention to leave or forsake you.—J.M.E.

J. M. E. To my Young Fancier,

I cannot help thinking, but that I should have acted dishonest to you, if I had withheld this vast amount of experience derived solely from Observation and Reflection from Fifty Years study on the Art of Breeding and Managing: I should have been no less dishonest, if I had attempted to have disguised and cooked it up, and endeavoured to impose upon you, laying claim to it as touching the Originality: I have exerted my little abilities to the utmost to give each Fancier or Writer the credit that is due to him, as touching Originality.

There is no doubt but that JOHN BOYS, Esq. could have arranged his Observations infinitely better than I shall, but having his permission to make whatever use I thought fit of his Notes in the margin, the thought struck me that it was pregnant with danger if I apprised him of my intention to publish his Observations, and would thank him, if not too much trouble, to put them in that form he would like them to appear in print; having permission in my possession I did not like to run the risk, for he might for ought I know have withdrawn his permission for my behaviour to him; (he has very kindly invited me to Margate. I am somewhat like the Auctioneer's hammer—Going! Going! Going! but not gone yet. He rather complaining that he does not exactly feel as he did thirty years ago, my advice is to follow Chesterfield, and talk of that forty years hence.) I have never had the honor of seeing him, but can take an exceedingly good lesson out of his book, and sincerely hope that you feel as grateful as I do, for handing down his experience to us.

To my Brother Fanciers,

Should it so happen in your experience from Observations, the idea has struck you that you have witnessed things, that are worthy to be handed down to posterity among Pigeon Fanciers, and that it is not your intention to publish a Work, if you will forward them to me, should there be merit in them and Originality, I will take care they come to light among the Gentlemen of the Fancy, and you shall have the credit as touching the Originality.

FINIS.

[AS REGARDS JOHN BOYS, ESQ.'S NOTES.]

[Owing to a mistake on my part, in omitting to let the Printer have these remarks, and the sheets being struck off, I am under the necessity of placing them here.]

MOORE, paragraphs 73 to 98.—See J. M. EATON'S Almond Tumbler, p. 44 to 48, "I object," &c.

J.M.E. I would strongly recommend the young and inexperienced Fancier to put in practice the remedies as laid down by MOORE, whenever any of his Pigeons are suffering from distempers or accidents from whatever cause. I entertain a much higher opinion of the remedies prescribed, when I ascertained from his Work, Columbarium, or the Pigeon-house, that he was a medical man: his Work shews how great an observer he was of a Pigeon, which he only kept as a fancy, and to relieve the mind. I cannot help thinking, one who thought so hard and deeply on a Pigeon, thought equally as hard, or more deeply on his profession, and was a credit and an ornament to the profession to which he belonged; and it must be so with you, provided you think hard and deeply on the Pigeon. I am then convinced that you are blessed with the means to think hard and deeply on matters of infinite greater importance. Entertaining so high an opinion of his advice and instructions all throughout his Work, I advise you that if unfortunately any of your Pigeons are overtaken with diseases or accidents, which, most assuredly they will, apply MOORE'S remedies, and the sooner it is discovered the better, remembering the Poet's advice, "A stitch in time, saves nine."

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The Testimonials of the Press on J. M. EATON's Almond Tumbler.	

PIGEONS.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING ALL THE KNOWN TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS,

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TESTIMONIALS OF THE PRESS.

BELL'S LIFE, JANUARY 23rd, 1853.

PIGEON FANCY.—We have just received a Treatise on the ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS, by Mr. John Matthews Eaton, of 7, Islington Green, a gentleman who a short time back wrote a work upon the Almond Tumbler. The present is a work much wanted by the Fancy, and shall be noticed at length in our columns the first opportunity. At present we have only space to say that the Author is a Fancier and Breeder, and thoroughly master of his subject.

MIDLAND SPORTING CHRONICLE, JANUARY 28th, 1853.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING ALL THE KNOWN FANCY PIGEONS.—By John Matthew Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London. —In the present mania for improvements, we feel convinced that the result of the Author's labours will be fully appreciated; and that the treatise before us will meet with a deserving encouragement, and be looked up to as a guide and an authority for amateur Fanciers. The manual is very entertaining and instructive throughout, copious in detail, and the production of one who has evidently made a warm study of improving the breed of these beautiful birds. In addition to his own practical knowledge, he favours us with a careful compilation from the valuable works of the late John Moore (1735), Mayor (1765), D. Girtin and John Boys, Esq., with a commentary on their respective methods of treatment in the COLUMBARIUM. The subject could not have been better handled than it has been by Mr. Eaton, whose pages indeed, give "more minute, sound practical, and available instruction and advice, as to the means of procuring, propagating, preserving, and discriminating the merits" of the Fancy Pigeon than any writer we are acquainted with. Truly, his is the monograph on this subject. A well executed set of engravings, showing the Fancier what to "breed up to," accompanies the work.

BELL'S LIFE, JANUARY 30th, 1853.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS. By JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.—Mr. Eaton is well and most favourably known to us as the Author of THE ALMOND TUMBLER, and as one of the most enthusiastic Pigeon Fanciers of the day. If the Greek poet Anacreon, or the Latin one—Catullus, lived in these degenerate days, they would most assuredly write odes in his praise, for he could furnish them with better Carrier Pigeons to bear messages of love to their mistresses than Athens or Rome ever produced. Mr. Eaton loves Pigeons with a sincere fervour that must render him a happy man, and his love for those beautiful birds has led him to study profoundly their natural history and habits. He knows how to treat them in health and in disease, to train them for all the uses they may be put to, as from cleaving the air to be cleft themselves, poor things! for those pies so palatable to omnivorous man. As an instructor in the Art of breeding and rearing every species of Pigeon Mr. Eaton cannot be surpassed, and all his various knowledge he has scattered cleverly over the pages of the book under notice. Young and inexperienced "Fanciers," buy it immediately.

MORNING HERALD, FEBRUARY 1st, 1853.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS. BY J. M. EATON. Published by the Author, Islington Green. It may truly be said that the author of this work thoroughly understands the subject on which he employed his pen. No point, however minute, has escaped his observation in the rearing, managing, and training of Pigeons of every kind and variety. He is quite enthusiastic in the science of which he is so experienced a professor, and his book may be consulted with confidence on all the matters relating to the procuring, propagating, preserving, and discriminating the merits of the Pigeon tribe. All who are inclined to indulge in this Fancy will find ample matter in this Volume to employ their thoughts and direct their efforts. It is accompanied by six finely coloured plates, representing beautiful specimens of the different breeds of the Pouter, the Carrier, the Beard, the Bald-head, the Black-mottle, and the Almond Pigeons.

MORNING POST, FEBRUARY 9th, 1853.

A TREATISE ON THE ART OF BREEDING AND MANAGING TAME, DOMESTICATED, AND FANCY PIGEONS.—By John Matthews Eaton, Author of the "Almond Tumbler." Mr. Eaton is a very experienced and very enthusiastic Pigeon-Fancier; and to those who desire information on the breeding and management of these beautiful birds, we cannot recommend a better guide. He is, moreover, deeply read in the literature of the subject, and he has rendered good service to the art which he professes, by preserving in his present book a very scarce and valuable Treatise, published in 1735 by Mr. John Moore, under the title of "Columbarium, or the Pigeon-House," from which all subsequent writers have largely borrowed, and as it should seem not always with due acknowledgment. This Treatise stands very high in the estimation of Mr. Eaton, and with his additions and annotations contains the fullest and most satisfactory information which even the uninitiated can require. Several other works have succeeded it; and whatever is original and useful in them has also been embodied by our zealous friend in his notes; so that in this book the result of his own observation and experience is engrafted upon the stock of information which his predecessors had accumulated; and the student who comes to this well-supplied storehouse will assuredly not be sent empty away. Elegancies of style are of little moment

in such a book ; and we are not sure that Mr. Eaton would not have lost more than he could gain by submitting his manuscript to the revision of some literary friend ; more especially as the adoption of that course, with respect to his former work, appears to have deprived him, most unjustly in some quarters, of the credit of its authorship. We formerly bore testimony of the merits of his "Almond Tumbler;" and its insertion in the present volume, with the notes added by John Boys, Esq. Margate, is convenient, and appears to render the book exhaustive of the subject. The Portrait of a very splendid specimen, belonging to the Author, adorns the Volume.

SUNDAY TIMES, FEBRUARY 13, 1853.

A Treatise on Breeding and Managing Pigeons. By J. M. Eaton. There seems to be an inherent love amongst English people for rearing and improving the breed of Pigeons, and several works have been written upon the treatment of Fancy Pigeons which have been held in great repute by amateur Fanciers. Mr. Eaton, already favourably known to the world as the author of a *Treatise on the Almond Tumbler*, now brings forward a more comprehensive work on the art of breeding and managing common, domesticated, and fancy Pigeons. The work does not profess to be entirely original; Mr. Moore's *Columbarium, or the Pigeon House*, published in 1735, being made the text of the present work, with copious notes compiled from the works of Mayor and Girtin, and many valuable comments from Mr. Eaton's own pen. The book, as far as we are competent to judge, appears to be a complete practical guide for the inexperienced Pigeon Fancier, an elaborate treatise by a man who has evidently devoted time, care, and attention to the subject upon which he writes. Accompanying the work we have received some well-executed engravings, coloured after nature, of the much-admired "Almond Tumbler" and other rare and beautiful varieties of Fancy Pigeons.

MIDLAND SPORTING CHRONICLE, MARCH 4th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London. A few weeks ago we noticed in terms of high and deserved commendation this valuable treatise, which is peculiarly adapted to assist the inexperienced in the art of Pigeon Fanciering. To the work is prefixed a fine coloured engraving of the Almond Tumbler, for the successful breeding of which the author is so greatly distinguished; and among its contents will be found, in addition to a full description of this beautiful bird, copious accounts of the various species of domesticated Pigeons known in this country, and perspicuous directions for breeding them. The best methods, also, of treatment when these beautiful animals of the feathered race are labouring under any of the distempers to which they are occasionally subject, are here fully developed. The construction of a Columbarium, or the Pigeon-house, and observations on the usefulness of the Pigeon, both in food and physic, form not the least important portions of this valuable acquisition to our works on Natural History. It is difficult to select one page more than another, where so much valuable theoretical and practical information prevails throughout, to give the reader an adequate conception of its merits. We, therefore, take promiscuously from it a description of the Carrier Pigeon, which will afford him a fair specimen of the able and interesting manner in which the Author has treated his subject:—"The *Columba Tabellaria*, or Carrier Pigeons.—[Too long for insertion in this Extract. Read p. 40 to 44.] In conclusion, we may venture to pronounce this *vade mecum*, which no Bird-fancier should be without, as the very best of its kind extant. The same able and intelligent author has published a series of admirably executed engravings, coloured to the "very life," which forms a beautiful and instructive illustration of the subject which he has in the above book executed with such masterly skill. They consist of portraits—1. The Carrier. 2. A Pouter. 3. A Bald Head. 4. A Black Mottle. 5. The Beard. 6. An Almond: of which the author possesses the best breed in the kingdom. This proves a valuable and beautiful appendage to the studio of the Ornithologist.

THE FIELD, MARCH 5th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons. Published by, and to be obtained of, the Author, John Matthews Eaton, 7, Islington Green, London.

Mr. Eaton has dedicated his Illustrated Work to the Young Fancier, and appears to have had an especial eye to giving him the advantage of all his own experience, derived from long observation and reflection. He points out the way of obtaining such birds as will lay a foundation, or improve a stud or strain of birds, and at the same gives the more experienced Fanciers (so often appointed Umpires), much wholesome advice. The Author appears somewhat nettled and galled at the few who attributed the authorship of his former work ("The Almond Tumbler") to other writers. It appears that Mr. Eaton has dived deeper into the subject of Fancy Pigeons than any other author. In his book he has at least rescued from the rude hand of time the original work on Fancy Pigeons, from which almost all other writers have largely borrowed without acknowledgment (the late John Moore's "*Columbarium; or, the Pigeon House*," 1735). He has taken this book as his text, and it appears to us that he has seriously weighed every remark he has made before committing his volume to press.

THE MINING JOURNAL, MARCH 5th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton. This work, which forms the second published by the author, is, as its title implies, a perfect treatise, embracing not only opinions and advice, the result of many years' constant and persevering attention to the subject under notice, but forms a valuable sequel to the work published by Mr. Eaton some sixteen months since, and which was, upon that occasion, reviewed in our columns. In noticing the treatise at present under review, it might appear that we are soaring aloft, while our vocation is that in the depths or inmost recesses of the earth, as minerals, not Pigeons, are more especially our province; but as "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," we will needs indulge our author and ourselves in taking a "bird's eye" view of the subject matter treated upon. Without entering into those minute details as to "the properties, of beak, wattle, and eye," or other points, which, however, will doubtless be read with interest and advantage by those who are lovers of "the fancy," and which are of an instructive and amusing nature, we may observe that in the body of the work is a reprint of a treatise or paper published in 1735, by John Moore, entitled "Columbarium, or the Pigeon-house; being an introduction to a Natural History of Tame Pigeons." This would appear to be highly prized by Mr. Eaton, who furnishes his notes and opinions on the facts put forth, many of which will be found not only amusing but perfectly original, as told by the author in his own way, and for which we must needs refer to the work itself. Having travelled through this essay, with the accompanying notes appended, and a letter from the editor or commentator, occupying a space 88 pages, with an address, dedication, and introductory remarks, we arrive at the reprint of the "Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing the Almond Tumbler," reviewed in our columns of July 26, 1851, which closes the volume. It would only detract from the value which will doubtless be attached to the publication by the fancier, and those intimately interested in the question, were we to attempt any extracts: indeed, to do the subject fair justice, the treatise should be perused throughout, as the best evidence of how much may be said on a subject which at first might appear of so little significance. It should be observed that the volume, in addition to the plates introduced, is accompanied by elaborately coloured engravings of the Pouter, the Carrier, the Beard, the Bald-head, the Black Mottle, and the Almond Pigeon, which are executed in a superior manner, and in themselves the full value of the treatise in question. In conclusion, we can recommend the work to the perusal of all interested in the study, and would say to others, in the various departments illustrative of natural history or scientific uses "go thou and do likewise."

THE GUARDIAN, MARCH 16th, 1853.

A quaint but clever and amusing gentleman, by name Eaton, has, it seems, devoted himself heartily to the rearing of Tame Pigeons, and the production of those marvels of shape, colour, feather, and head, which so much attract the "Fancy." He has certainly a great deal to tell, and he tells it in a curious but entertaining fashion. His *Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons*, is to us all unversed in the mysteries of "fancy" a very amusing book; to more learned readers we doubt not very instructive also. He reprints, besides, a Treatise of a Mr. Moore, called the Columbarian, or Pigeon-house, first printed 120 years ago, with copious notes in addition. These notes are often very original, and contain a deal of observation and curious facts. The half-dozen Prints which accompany the Volume are excellent. The Carrier and the Almond Tumbler are particularly beautiful. They are really lovely birds, and show that in Pigeons, at least, the perfection of "fancy" is not inconsistent with very great natural beauty.

JOHN BULL, JULY 30th, 1853.

A Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons, carefully compiled from the best Authors, with Observations, containing all that is necessary to be known of tame, domesticated, and fancy Pigeons. By John Matthews Eaton, Author of the "Almond Tumbler."—Published for the Author.

This treatise on a subject equally interesting to the world of Science and to "the Fancy," which has been for some time before the public, and is well known among Pigeon breeders and fanciers, has just received additional illustration from a beautiful set of plates in which the author has immortalized several of the most singular and valuable specimens of the Pigeon genus. Both the book and its pictorial accompaniments are deserving of all commendation.

COTTAGE GARDENER AND COUNTRY GENTLEMAN'S COMPANION.

OCTOBER 20th, 1853.

Time was, not many years since, when "a Pigeon Fancier" was associated in all men's minds with Costermongers, Pugilists, Rat-catchers, and Dog-stealers, and for no other reason that we can discern than that the majority of Pigeon Fanciers were artisans—men who lived in the courts, alleys, and other by-places of the metropolis. Such men, in those days, drew towards them no sympathy—they were the profane vulgar—

the pariahs of Society—and their pursuits were deemed scarcely fit to be mentioned within audience of "ears polite." The Auricula and the Polyanthus became "vulgar flowers," for they were pets of the Manchester and Spitalfields weavers; and the remnant of this bad spirit lingers with those who talk of abandoning Pine-culture, now that this fruit is become familiar to "common people." Such pride and exclusiveness would have a heaven for gentility, with a wide gulph between that and the heaven of the poor.

Gladdened are we by the knowledge that these sentiments are gradually lessening both in intensity and in the number of their disciples, and respect for the man, rather than a belief in the degradation of his pursuit, is now felt for him who shows a taste for the purer occupations of life.

The cultivator of a Pansey in a court-yard of Whitechapel, and the breeder of Pigeons in Drury Lane, is now more often thought of as one who exhibits a praise-worthy frame of mind—and that the love of nature implanted in our first parents in their state of innocence being yet uneffaced, he is raised in the scale of worthiness. It is justly felt that he clings to all he can of the country—that though he cannot have a flower-border, he finds the best substitute within his reach in a flower-pot upon his window-sill—though he cannot have a poultry-yard, he has all he can of its tenants, over which to be solicitous in the pigeon-hutches of his attic. The man in whom such tastes remain and triumph over all opposing difficulties, so far from being altogether bad, is one in whom much that is estimable prevails. We have too long watched and made notes among Cottage Gardeners not to have had this fully proved, and to rejoice in the knowledge that it may be admitted as a rule, that he who loves the country loves virtue too.

How strong the prejudice must have been against the pursuits of the masses was never so strongly demonstrated as in the prejudice against the breeding of Fancy Pigeons. The Dove, or Pigeon, is associated with all that is holy in Christianity, and with much that was held sacred in Mythology. Its very name in Hebrew, *Jona*, is derived from a word signifying gentleness, and from the day it brought the olive-leaf to the ark, both the plant and its winged bearer have been esteemed emblematical of peace. Even the Brahmins tell of their deities assuming the form of the Dove; Mahomed had an attendant spirit in the same form; and in the same similitude has appeared the Divine Spirit. Yet, notwithstanding this sacred association, notwithstanding the gentleness and beauty of the bird, its rearing and cultivation, until very recently, has been anathematized as "a low pursuit."

Common sense is prevailing, and, consequently, prejudice is giving way even here, and we are well pleased with the prospect of seeing the breeding of Pigeons improve by the side of poultry-keeping. Nor is this taste for Pigeons without the support of any one plea that can be urged in favour of rearing poultry. Beauty, gentleness, profit, are common to both, and in antiquity, the Dove-cote might claim precedence of the Fowl-house. We might, without much difficulty, trace the rearing of Pigeons back to the remotest ages, and evidence is abundant, we think, to show that so far from our various breeds of Pigeons all owing their original parentage to the Stock Dove, that every region had its particular variety. On the present occasion, let us rest contented with the pigeon-keeping of the Romans. If we turn to the pages of the agricultural writers of that great nation, we find that their knowledge on this subject was ample and accurate. The directions given for the erection of the Dove-houses, for feeding, for cleanliness, and other minute particulars, are such as might be repeated in the pages of a modern author, and accepted as sound instruction. There is one fact to which we will bear testimony, and which we do not remember to have found noticed in any modern author. "The whole Dove-cote, says Columella, ought to be polished with *white* plaister, for these birds are especially pleased with that colour."

These conquerors of the world were acquainted with several varieties. We find noticed "the *Roman*," and Columella says, "let not such as are of different kinds be joined together, as the Alexandrian and the Campanian." That they had the Carrier variety, we have this testimony of Pliny. "Pigeons have been employed as inter-messengers upon affairs of great urgency. Letters were sent annexed to their feet, to the camp of the consul, by Decimus Brutus, whilst besieged in Modena. Of what avail were the trench and watchful sentinels of Antonius, when the messenger traversed the sky!" "Many men, adds Pliny, have each a love for these birds, that they build towers for them upon the roofs of their houses, and have pedigrees showing the purity and descent of each. Even the ancients, as exemplified in Lucius Axius, a Roman of the Equestrian Order, before the Pompeian civil war, sold every pair of his pigeons (*denariis quadringentis*) for £12. 19s., as Marcus Varro has recorded. It is certain that some countries are very celebrated for the excellence of their breed, those in Campania are considered the largest to be produced." Nor did the mania decrease, for Columella says—"I am ashamed of my own age, if we believe that some purchasers are to be found who have paid four thousand nummi (£32) for a pair of birds." What would the old Romans have written, if he had been at Stevens's auction, and seen £40 given for one! It is true that this one was a Shanghai cock, but for a century much larger prices, if we

estimate the comparative weights, have been given for Fancy Pigeons in this country. Thus we have before us the account of a sale of nineteen pairs of "Powter Pigeons," on the 30th of December, 1761, in Beach Lane, London. They fetched £92. 9s. 6d., and one pair was knocked down for sixteen guineas. Two pairs were afterwards re-sold for thirty-six guineas. An account of the sale is in Mr. Eaton's work, which we shall notice presently. It was in the first half of the last century, that the cultivation of the Pigeon was most general in England, and during that period appeared the first works upon the subject that are to be found in our literature. The earliest of these publications was *The Columbarium*, by John Moore. This appeared in 1735, being followed, in 1765, by an anonymous *Treatise on Domestic Pigeons*; by Daniel Girtin's *Complete Pigeon Fancier*, without date. There appeared, in 1802-4, *A Treatise on the Almond Tumbler*, by an un-named author, but who was a Mr. Windus, a London attorney, and now we have before us the whole combined in one volume, with a large amount of original notes, by John Matthews Eaton. His *Treatise on the Art of breeding and managing the Almond Tumbler* was published in 1851, and again, with the annotated work, in the present year, under the title of *A Treatise on Pigeons*.

It is the best and fullest work which has yet appeared upon the subject, and with it are given a portfolio of portraits, beautifully drawn and coloured, the size of life, of the Almond Tumbler, Bald Head, Beard, Black Mottle, Carrier, and Pouter.

We consider it the best work that has hitherto appeared relative to Pigeons, because it is the accumulated experience of practical men arranged by one enthusiastically fond of the birds concerning which he writes. This enthusiasm carries him beyond the bounds of sober judgment occasionally, but no reader will consider this unpardonable, even although he goes the length of admiring an "Almond Tumbler," as the most beautiful of God's creatures, with the exception of woman!

Mr. Eaton is not a practised writer, and, therefore, there is a freshness and raciness about his rambling that disarms criticism, and commands forgiveness, though he mingles Nelson, Peel, and Wellington, with Pouters, Croppers, and Tumblers, and hesitates not a moment to wander from the Dovecote to Wellington's Funeral, the Crystal Palace, and even his father's day of nativity! He is, in truth, the most vagrant of scribes—but there is a carelessness of rules, and an earnestness of purpose, that defies and disarms censure. It is rendered a very readable book by its imperfections, and we should be sorry to have it pruned into regularity. The general detail of management, and more especially, perhaps, the mysteries of "cross-matching," and the selection of breeding-stock, with a view to the result desired in the progeny, are ably explained, with a liberality that is not always manifested by those individuals to whom the designation of "fancier" more properly belongs. The author, indeed, expresses apprehension that his endeavours to aid the novice in pigeon-breeding may be considered as an infringement of the brotherhood, but the higher, on this very ground, should be the award of merit and approbation. The feeling referred to existed among those to whom other birds, besides Pigeons, were an object of interest; and thus, had a Bantam fancier, some thirty years since, produced such a volume explanatory of his favorite's pedigree and management, less uncertainty would now prevail, though the author's subsequent position among "the gentlemen of the fancy" would probably have been far from enviable.

One great merit for which Mr. Eaton's book deserves a position on the shelves of every pigeon-keeper arises from its value as a record for upwards of 100 years of the various standards and points of excellence in the different varieties. It is so far from being the *ex parte* statement of the views and prejudices of an individual, that authorities, past and present, *pro* and *con*, are fairly placed in review before the reader, to whom Mr. Eaton then explains the reasons on which his own judgment would be grounded.

If we express a wish for any curtailment of the length to which the treatise has been prolonged, it proceeds from our belief that the more material portions of his work would thus have been more readily reached, and presented in a clearer form to the eye. Grammatical accuracy would have avoided many confused passages, and there are some few allusions to sacred names and subjects that are not introduced with the respect and reverence we should have desired. Should another edition be called for, such alterations and corrections would render the book still more generally popular. Essentially a practical work, it cannot fail, if properly employed, of answering the expectations of those who may purchase it, either with a view to mere rudimentary knowledge, or the acquisition of some of those dearly-cherished and scrupulously-guarded secrets of the "fancy" that are here boldly revealed for public information.

Enough has been said to shew our estimate of the value of Mr. Eaton's production, so let us now pass a step onwards, and regard the pigeon-fancier generally, with respect to the present system of exhibiting their birds at our Poultry Shows.

Horror and dismay, we imagine, would be manifestly portrayed on the countenances of many a member of the Columbarian, or similar Societies, were it proposed to place their cherished Carriers, Pouters, or Tumblers, under the same rules and principles of competition as the Birmingham, Metropolitan, and other leading Associations of the

same description would require. Our remarks, hitherto tolerated, may here, perchance, be so utterly repugnant to long-cherished opinions that brook no contradiction, that the columns of our brother contributors may share the flames to which our own rashness may have exposed this present production. But we have a firm conviction that much was erroneous in the arbitrary standard of the pigeon-fancier of the present and former days, that may be rectified by the better principle of recent arrangements.

Let us take the case of the Carrier, for instance: in this, as in every other bird, or quadruped, of which we propose to ourselves the production in the most perfect form, we consider how far figure, and the other conditions of its existence, may be best adapted to the special object that we have in view. With the Carrier, the power of traversing great distances in the shortest space of time would, unquestionably, be the point we should all aim at; and the person, therefore, who is selected to arbitrate on the merits of competing birds, should scan their capabilities with particular reference to this one point; "*feather*," might turn the scale, if equality existed in the more material features. Now let us turn to Mr. Eaton as a faithful opponent of the standard, according to which judgment would now be pronounced by a member of a Society specially constituted for the Pigeon fancy. At page 40, we find that, according to Mr. Moore, "a Carrier is generally reckoned to have twelve properties, namely:—Three in the beak; three in the wattle; three in the head; three in the eye. Here it is evident that the points of merit are wholly limited to a very small portion only of the bird, the head; and we are, consequently, prepared to learn that more recent authorities have extended the area over which judgment should be given, while they limit the points, or properties, to five, namely, the beak, the wattle, the head, the eye, and lastly, the length and thinness of neck, and the length of body. But even here "*feather*" is excluded from the formal enumeration of what will be considered as points of merit, contrary, as we think, to the principles on which a bird of any kind, designed for other purposes than those of the table should be judged of. If it be said that this matters not with the Carrier, because its capabilities of accomplishing extended flight are the main object we have in view, and, therefore, that, like a good horse, a Carrier cannot be of a bad colour, we are perfectly ready to assent to the assertion. But other features, be it remembered, beyond those that would conduce to great powers of flight, are arbitrarily brought into the calculation, some, indeed, that might well be thought likely to defeat that very object; why, therefore, should we not gratify our eye by having a bird of handsome plumage, as well one with the wattle, or the orbit, of unnatural size. With respect to the wattle, indeed, we might say, so far as it is truly a characteristic of the Carrier, let us see to its due preservation; but why breed for such a bloated amplification of this feature, as must tend to obstruct the very object for which the bird itself is valued. We might just as well design the lines for a vessel with a view to extreme speed, and then suspend over her finely-drawn bows a couple of hogsheads to deaden her way through the water. The extended beak, the long, narrow, and flat head, the thin neck, the muscular formation of the chest, and the well-developed wing, are all in character; but all, at the same time, directly append to the disproportionate size of the bloated excrescence of the wattle, now so greatly coveted.

With the "*Tumbler*," again, extraordinary agility in the air, the facility with which what in the circus is termed the "*back spring*," is performed by them, is the property that would have first brought the birds possessing it into favour, and which should ever since have been borne in view by their subsequent admirers. But we learn from Mr. Eaton (page 22, *Almond Tumbler*), it is not desirable to allow them their liberty, "since they are extremely weak and timid, and the least blast of wind would blow them down the chimneys, or one bird playing against another would have the same effect." Nor are we more likely to cultivate the variety from being told that the property of "*shortness of face*," including the most diminutive form to which the bill can possibly be reduced, is carried to that extent that the young birds frequently dies in the shell from the stunted proportions of this member being unable to chip through its case; and, even supposing it succeeds in this, that the same unnatural reduction of the parent's will prevent their feeding their young, who must, therefore, be either transferred to other Pigeons who have not thus suffered from the freaks of fancy, or else starve.

One more instance, and we have done. The epitome of excellence in a "*Pouter*" is made to consist of a huge globular swelling of the throat, slenderness of girth, and length of legs. We are certainly at a loss to conceive how any combination of those "*properties*" can be made subservient to the graceful appearance of any variety of birds that, like the Pigeon, possesses such natural elegance of form, and is in every respect, so calculated for its habits of existence.

If we are here met with a declaration that the "*Gentlemen of the Fancy*" have a right to select such standards of excellence as custom has bequeathed to them, and have, too, endowed with special beauty in their own eyes, all we have to reply amounts to this, that they have a perfect right to gratify their "*fancy*," only we are unwilling to recognise that word as synonymous with beauty of appearance, or harmony with the unvarying combination of beauty and aptitude for their several conditions which distinguishes every work of nature,

Such abnormal productions as we have here alluded to may have many parallel instances in other animals: among them the unfortunate "Creepers and Jumpers," among the Bentams of former days; and the toy terrier of our own, but in the latter instance, we may still retain symmetry, although utility is lost. In the vegetable world, the labour of a life is thought by the Chinaman to be well recompensed by the stunted proportions of an orange-tree, or myrtle, or the diminutive club feet of his wife and daughters.

Fashion will probably long continue to exert influence in encouraging similar eccentric results; but if there are still found those who reject the just proportions of the natural form in favour of such deformities, let them be satisfied with their success in having so far distorted the usual laws by which both the animal and vegetable kingdoms are governed, without desiring the acquiescence of others to their own theory of beauty, based on eccentricity, and contradiction to the requirements, as well as the natural condition, of the subject they choose to operate on. In just comparison to what we have now complained of, may be mentioned the treatment of the beautiful "Archangel" Pigeon, recently introduced into this country. The "Pigeon-fancy" look with disfavour on this bird; and the question is asked, What are we to do with it! Is there any hope of breeding it up to the beak and wattle of the Carrier, or down to the beak and bullet-head of the Tumbler! To neither, if our entreaties may be heard; for rarely have colours been so well spotted, or figure and proportions so happily adapted, as in this singularly striking addition to our list of Pigeons. "Let well alone," is a good old motto: and we shall be well content to find to see Pouters overbalancing themselves on the house-tops; Carriers too precious to leave their owner's loft; and Tumblers without the power of using their wings; if the Archangel and others of the genus be left to us in the state in which we are now so fortunate as to possess them, and towards which perfection the breeders art, we imagine, done but little. To those whose patience has carried them through these remarks our meaning will be plain; it may, indeed, be thus briefly summed up, that the principle on which Pigeons are now being shown at our general Poultry Exhibitions is more likely to lead to their production in a better form, both as regards beauty of appearance, and agreement with the properties and characteristics of the different varieties, than where, as now and in former days, regard was exclusively given to certain exaggerated forms of their particular parts and members.

Nothing, however, is further from our intention or wish than any depreciation of the merits of Mr. Eaton's work: he is a faithful exponent of the views of those whom he designates as "the Fancy," and the guarantee of long experience will render his treatise valuable to many who, like ourselves, are fond of his favourite birds, without being biassed by a standard which we conceive to be rather at variance with the power and properties on which excellence should be established.

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